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Martlet photo of Arts in Education student Brett Sillers by Nicole Staebell

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UVic students braved long lines this week in hopes of getting their parking passes, U-Pass stickers, student cards, and books in time for classes.

Martlet photo by Kristin Froneman

Union action set for next week

BY PATTI EDGAR

Support staff at B.C.'s four major universities—including UVic—are planning a "day of action" next week in hopes of raising awareness about faltering negotiations with their employers.

On Sept. 15, members of Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) locals at each of the universities may slow down traffic, leaflet cars and put up signs and banners on buildings on B.C.'s major campuses in support of the six locals currently in bargaining or mediation with the University of Victoria, the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and the University of Northern British Columbia.

CUPE locals will be meeting this week to decide exactly what kind of activities will take place, said Doug Sprenger, UVic's CUPE Local 951 president and the chair of the universities' co-ordinated bargaining committee.

"Students need to be prepared," said Sprenger. "Arrive early next Wednesday, because with traffic slow downs, you might be late for classes."

However, if UVic's CUPE Local 917 decides to serve strike notice this week, UVic's "day of action" could be more than just a small inconvenience to students, with picket lines set up around the university that many university employees wouldn't cross, he said.

There are about 1,000 UVic employees—from child care workers to groundskeepers—in two CUPE locals who are renegotiating contracts with the university.

CUPE 917, whose members include janitorial, food services and trades workers, cast a favorable strike vote in June. On Wednesday, Sept. 8, the local was wrapping up the second of two days of mediation with the university, and meeting to consider whether to go into another day of mediation or to give 72-hours strike notice.

CUPE 951, which represents 600 office, technical and child care workers at UVic, has tentatively scheduled Sept. 21 and Sept. 22 as mediation days with the university. Three days of bargaining last week were "fruitless" said Sprenger in a recent email to local members.

Like their counterparts at B.C.'s three other universities, both local unions are asking for increased salaries and benefits. CUPE Locals 917 and 951 would also like to see the university pay for medical coverage, improve dental coverage, increase pensions, and start a long-term disability plan. Job security and pay-equity are also top priorities.

If either CUPE local strikes, the Professional Employees Association and CUPE Local 4163 have announced their members won't cross the picket lines. The University of Victoria Student Society chair Morgan Stewart said the student society would also support the strike by closing the Student Union Building.

The Faculty Association, which is not unionized, will leave the decision of whether or not to cross picket lines up to individual members, said president Thomas Cleary.

"Everyone will have to do what their conscience tells them to do," he said.

The university remains hopeful that the mediation process will result in contracts with both CUPE locals, said UVic's communications director Bruce Kilpatrick.

He said it is inappropriate to discuss the details of negotiations or comment on what the university would do in the event of a strike while mediation with CUPE 917 and 951 is still taking place.

on the spot

How effective do you feel a campus-wide strike would be?

Beth Boyle
1st year languages

"If the SUB closes, I have a job there, I won't be able to get my hours. (The strike threat) breaks down the reputation of the university."

Mark Berdusco
4th year mechanical engineering

"It's not very effective. Students would be vulnerable to consequences without any input to the outcome."

Tallis Stevenson
2nd year music

"It would hamper the whole school–the flow of things. It would make a big impact but I don't know how positive it would be."

Raveena Sidhu
1rst year Masters public admin.

"We need our student services: the SUB, our bookstore. We need them now. It's the most strategic time of the year for them to threaten a strike."

Victorians welcome detained Chinese refugees

BY KATHRYN SAUNDERS

A barbed wire fence separated a group of Victoria well-wishers from waving Chinese refugees detained in a guarded gymnasium at Work Point military compound.

About 100 Victorians cheered, sang, and lifted placards Monday evening with welcoming messages in both English and Mandarin as refugees from the third ship to arrive in B.C. waters from China walked out of the gym, past military personnel, to port-a-potties.

They smiled and waved at the crowd gathered for the second welcoming party organized by the Victoria Community Coalition Against Racism, an umbrella group of 40 Victoria-area groups.

Many of the well-wishers said they attended the welcoming party because they were upset with the negative language used to portray the refugees in the media, including the "outright racist" comments printed in the headlines of British Columbia's provincial papers.

They said they wanted to assure refugees that many Canadians do welcome them and recognize there may be human rights atrocities awaiting them in China.

A spokesperson for the coalition, Harinder Dhillon opened the welcoming party by acknowledging that the event was taking place on Coast Salish land. She reminded the crowd that many Canadians are immigrants to this land.

Amal Rana from Vancouver's Kinesis spoke to the refugees through translator Tek Siaw, informing them of their right to a fair hearing.

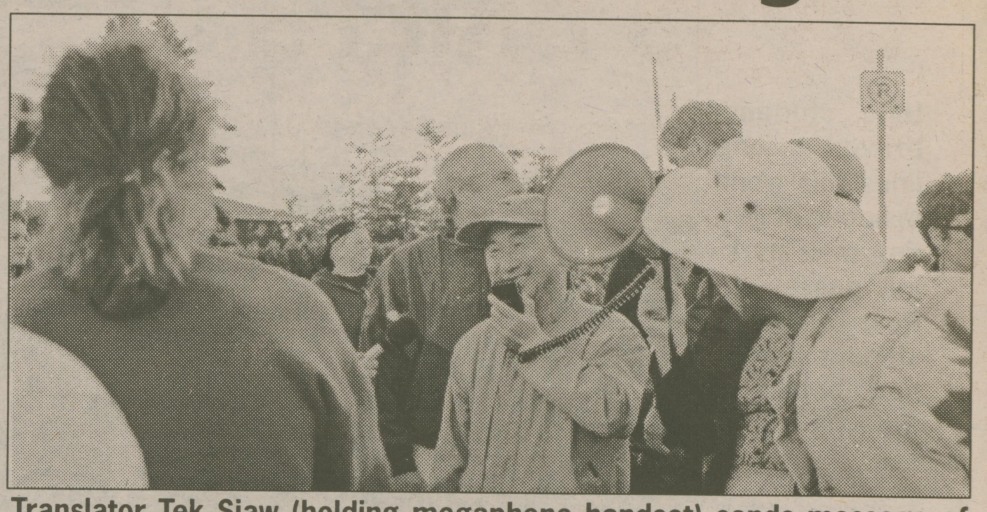
"You have rights to a fair hearing and we will be watching every step of the way to make sure you get your rights," Rana said.

The plight of the Chinese refugees is drawing focus onto Canada's Immigration Act.

Well-wishers drew attention to Canada's colonial history.

Martlet photo by Nicole Staebell

While the media and federal government have called for strengthening the act in order to ensure Canada's gates are secure, those who gathered at Work Point on Monday evening feel that the Immigration Act should be changed to ensure protection for those escaping countries with human rights violations.



Translator Tek Siaw (holding megaphone handset) sends message of welcome to Chinese refugees inside Work Point's gymnasium.

Martlet photo by Nicole Staebell

Ali Yerevani of the Iranian Immigrant and Refugee Society said much of the backlash against the refugees has been under the guise of "strengthening" Canada's immigration laws. Bill C-63, which is scheduled for discussion in the House of Commons on Dec. 7, is working off the fear that immigrants and refugees are a danger and a drain to Canadian society, he said.

"These people just want to have a good life here, to be safe. They want to contribute to our society," said Yerevani.

He recommends that people write to the immigration minister and to their local Member of Parliament protesting Bill C-63.

The speakers at the welcoming party pointed out that the Chinese refugees were not "line jumping" by coming in on a smugglers' boat, but were in fact using the only possible route available to them to come to Canada as refugees.

Rana said there are many ways to claim refugee status in Canada, and applying and waiting for the bureaucracy of immigration can be impossible for those escaping human rights atrocities.

"[In many countries] it is very, very hard to get to a place where you can actually claim refugee status legally," she said. "In China—and in other places in Asia and Latin America—places where you can apply for refugee status are few and far between, and are, in fact, rare."

She said Canada's Immigration Act should be changed to ensure barriers, such as institutionalized racism and classism, are eliminated.

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UVSS BRIEFS

The University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) board of directors are elected representatives of UVic's 15,000 undergraduate students. They meet every second Monday at 6 p.m. in the SUB upper lounge. For more information about meetings call Linda Szasz at 721-8366.

By Patti Edgar

New phone company recruiting in SUB

Who could turn down $28,000?

Definitely not the UVSS executives who signed a deal with B.C. Tel, giving the company the exclusive right to sell their products, including long-distance calling plans, to students in the Student Union Building for the next 18 months.

B.C. Tel made the offer this summer when the UVSS's deal with another long distance company, ACC TeleEnterprises Ltd., ran out. The deal with ACC gave the UVSS a percentage of each long distance call UVic students made, unlike the B.C. Tel deal replacing it, which gives the student society $28,000 over 18 months. Last year the ACC deal only brought in $14,677.

"[ACC] was a good student-based plan, but with B.C. Tel no one has to sign on and we still make money," said Summer McFayden, UVSS director of finance.

But sealing the deal wasn't easy.

B.C. Tel came up with an offer at the last minute, leaving the UVSS board little time to decide what company to sign on with before their three-year contract with ACC ran out. McFayden was not at work when B.C. Tel made the offer, so Chris Moon,director of services, signed the deal, along with SUB business manager John Fitterer and director-at-large Rob Fleming.

That prompted director-at-large John Trueman to table a motion before the Aug. 9 UVSS board meeting saying "no exclusivity deals or similar contracts shall be signed or authorized by any director unless it has been approved by a majority of the board of directors."

However, with Trueman away on a co-op work term, the motion was referred to the organizational development committee who will be researching the feasibility of the policy.

"There's no language [in the UVSS policy manual] to say that big deals have to go before the board. I think there should be," said McFayden.

What do you want to see in the SUB?

The occasional flat tire is not enough business to keep the Student Union Building's bicycle sales and repairs shop open.

So SUBCycle is pulling out at the end of the semester, leaving an empty space in the building this January.

"We don't exactly know what to put in there so we are asking students," said UVSS director of services Chris Moon.

Anyone with suggestions can fill out a survey form available at the UVSS Info Booth. In October the results will be tallied and brought to the board as recommendations from students.

Suggestions so far include a pharmacy, an expanded Cinecenta Cafe, and a used clothing store, said Moon.

Campus post office closes

By Patti Edgar

When family housing resident Richard Mackie went to mail a handful of letters and parcels last week, he was surprised to discover that the campus' only post office had closed.

On July 15 Student and Ancillary Services closed their Canada Post outlet in Finnerty Express, leaving students without a handy spot to buy stamps and mail packages.

The loss of what Mackie calls "an essential campus service" that has served 2,200 resident students since the 1970s has him outraged.

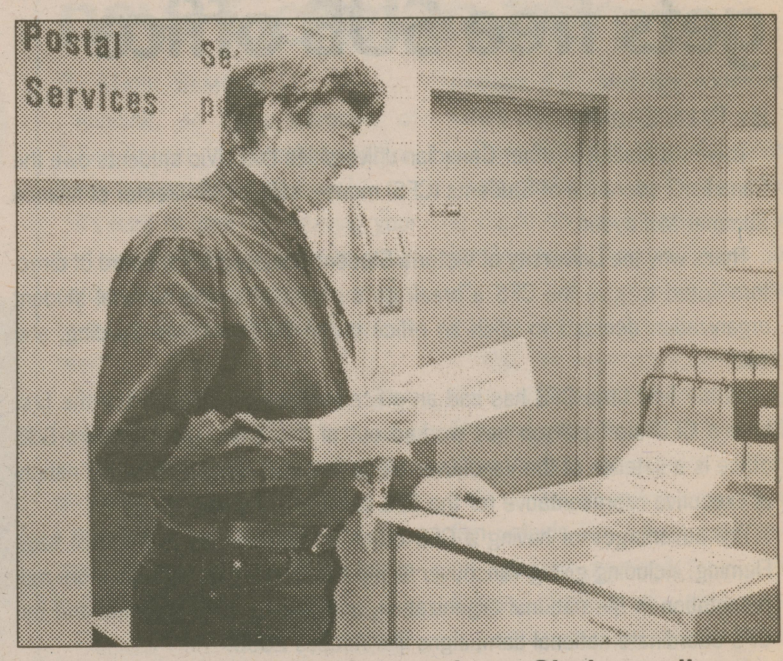
"The post office is always busy, there's always a line up," he said. "Most people in residence just walk over. It's incredibly inconvenient to take a bus just to drop off a letter."

Blame Canada Post, not the university for the post office closure, says David Clode, executive director of student services, a branch of the university that runs the bookstore, athletics and recreation, housing, and food services on a self-sustaining basis.

Last year the postal company increased the wholesale cost of products such as stamps to franchise owners, causing the profit margin to drop from 20 per cent to five per cent. While other small postal outlets across the country faced the decision of whether or not to close up shop, UVic's student services managers quickly choose to spend $200,000 on inventory at the old prices.

That kept the post office open another year, but once the inventory ran out, it became too expensive to run, said Clode. Under the new wholesale prices the post office would have to generate $3,000 in sales a day just to cover labour costs.

"There's a limit to the number of people who can get past the cashier everyday. It's not a high speed product," said Clode, pointing out that during the summer months, exam months and holidays there are even fewer people on campus.



Puzzled education professor Jerry Clarkson discovered the post office is no longer open.

Martlet photo by Kristin Froneman

While other businesses might accept a financial loss on a post office because it brings in customers, UVic's post office hasn't been popular enough to keep around, he added.

The university has a moral obligation. Even if there is a [financial] loss they should keep it open for the students.

Canada Post's B.C. communications manager Bob Taylor said UVic can't criticize the crown corporation's new wholesale prices because Canada Post has tried to be accommodating to its franchise owners by increasing the profit margin on some of its products.

"No other outlet in Victoria shut down and [price changes] had an effect on very few outlets across Canada."

During the summer the University of Victoria's Student Society (UVSS) board of directors considered setting up a post office in the Student Union Building but decided it was a losing venture, said Chris Moon, director of services.

But viewing students as customers is just the kind of attitude UVic and the UVSS board should avoid, said Mackie, who faced a long line at the Cadboro Bay post office this week while waiting to weigh his envelopes.

"The university has a moral obligation. Even if there is a [financial] loss they should keep it open for the students."

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SUB, UVic

CFS ferries into town, gets free SUB office

By Patti Edgar

There's a feeling at other Canadian universities that UVic students owe the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) money, said UVSS director of finance Summer McFayden.

That's why the University of Victoria Student Society (UVSS) board of directors voted to give the CFS a break on the rent when the national student organization decided to open an office in the Student Union Building, she said.

It's the first time CFS has had an office in Victoria (although not the first time a CFS staff person has worked out of this city). Their upstairs SUB office is a satellite of the Vancouver office and Rob Fleming, now the national executive representative for the CFS in B.C., is working out of it.

The advantages of having a CFS office on campus are numerous, says Fleming, including giving Vancouver Island post-secondary schools more representation in the national organization, and helping UVic students and the CFS coordinate national campaigns like Access 2000.

But students are, in a sense, paying the rent.

Thanks to a one-year renewable contract, the CFS only pays "triple net" in the building (hydro, phone, heat, and janitorial services). The organization gets the office space for free. That's because the UVSS feels UVic students owe the CFS $300,000 in fees, said McFayden.

Since the founding of the CFS in 1981 until this September, UVic students were paying $3.75 each in student fees that went to the CFS.

But since 1993, when member schools of the CFS voted to up the per-student fee, most other universities have been paying $6 per person.

"The CFS were invoicing us for $6 but we were giving them $3.75," said McFayden. "The feeling is we owe them something. Other students in B.C. have been paying for years."

Twice, in 1994 and 1995, UVic's student society asked students in a referendum if they wanted to pay the full $6, but the majority of students voted "no." Last year, in a third referendum, students voted "yes."

But the national organization's new office in the SUB wasn't a revenue generator before CFS moved in, said McFayden, so students really aren't missing out on any cash that would go towards student activities.

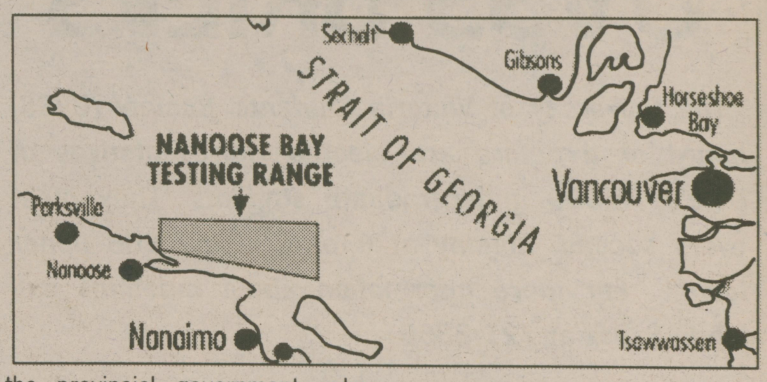
And CFS might not renew its contract. Fleming says the student organization is just test-running the idea of having an office at UVic.

"There's a space shortage in the SUB so it's unsure if we'd keep it here or move downtown like Travel Cuts," he said. "We're just trying this for now. The CFS can't afford to set up permanently here."

Nanoose Bay for beginners

Over the summer, opposition to the federal government's plan to expropriate Nanoose Bay from British Columbia has exploded.

The Martlet's ***Kathryn Saunders*** *explains why.*



• What is Nanoose Bay?

Nanoose Bay is located northeast of Nanaimo. About 225 square kilometres of the Strait of Georgia in the area has been used as a missile testing range since 1967. The small military base employs 50 people. Eighty per cent of the testing is done by and for the United States.

• Who owns Nanoose Bay?

In 1984, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled Nanoose Bay and the Strait of Georgia are the jurisdiction of B.C. In 1989 the province agreed to lease Nanoose Bay to the federal government for $1 a year for 10 years. That expired Sept. 4.

When the lease expired, the provincial government agreed to renew the lease on the condition that the testing range be a nuclear-free zone, that environmental concerns be addressed, and the federal government give the province fair compensation for its use.

The federal government wouldn't accept the terms of the lease and filed to expropriate the land. Now that the lease is up, the federal government has until Sept. 18 to expropriate the land.

• Who is opposed to the expropriation?

Concerned citizens, environmental groups, some First Nations, and, perhaps as a result of this pressure, the provincial government, who declared B.C. a nuclear-free zone in 1992.

• When did they get their say?

The federal government hosted public hearings on the expropriation in Nanaimo on July 19 to 30 and in Vancouver Aug. 3 to 17. Only a handful of the 2,600 people who filed an objection had a chance to speak at the hearings.

Among them was the chair of the University of Victoria Students' Society Morgan Stewart, who spoke on behalf of the UVSS.

"This expropriation is about making war and it is about the proliferation of nuclear weapons. It is about the federal government kowtowing to the American military machine."

• What's been happening in the courts?

A group of citizens concerned about the expropriation of the land (including the Human Rights Institute of Canada, Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada, Citizens Concerned about Free Trade, and the Defense of Canadian Liberty Committee) filed an injunction against the expropriation on the grounds that it was unconstitutional.

This motion to stay the proceedings was dismissed by Madam Justice Barbara Reed on Sept. 2 on the grounds that the objecting parties were not personally at risk if the expropriation were to go through. In her ruling, Reed said that the only party she could realistically allow to stay the proceedings would be the Province of British Columbia.

• So, did B.C. take legal action?

At the very last minute, Sept. 3, they did.

The Province of British Columbia filed a writ with the Supreme Court of B.C. saying the expropriation is constitutionally invalid. It's not that they don't want a base there, they just don't want nuclear powered or nuclear-weapons-capable ships in the Strait of Georgia.

Tara Wilson of Intergovernmental Relations for B.C. said the court action is a last resort.

"[The B.C. government] has been very diligent about negotiating. The province has always been willing to go back to the negotiating table."

Now B.C. is waiting for a court date to present their case.

• Is the Strait of Georgia a nuclear-free zone?

According to John Fraser, spokesperson for Victoria Member of Parliament and Environment Minister David Anderson, there never has been, and never will be, nuclear weapons at the Nanoose testing range.

"[But due to] the sake of the defense of the world and the sake of mobilization and security purposes, there is no guarantee."

• Does all this impact First Nations people?

In his presentation at the hearings Gilbert Joe, a Sechelt Band elder, said, "We had five deaths within our community within the last month. They all died of cancer...Other Coast Salish bands around the Strait are having similar experiences."

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Education steals election

By Chris Bodnar

OTTAWA - After seeing tuition fee increases of 107 per cent since 1991, education has surfaced as a major issue in the upcoming Saskatchewan provincial election.

Voters, who head to the polls on Sept. 16, are being offered several post-secondary education treats by the province's two leading parties.

The incumbent New Democratic Party is promising a certificate to every high school graduate in the province, entitling them to free tuition for their first year of post-secondary study.

The certificate is good at either of Saskatchewan's universities or the province's training colleges, and would be available for use up to five years after high school graduation.

Meanwhile, the province's Liberals are offering an annual $1,000 bursary to first and second year students starting in January, with plans to expand the bursary program to all students by September 2000.

The Liberal bursary offer was first announced this past April by party leader Jim Melenchuk.

The anticipated cost for both offers is approximately $20 million.

"We have believed for some time that we had to elevate post-secondary education as a promise," said Maynard Sonntag, the Saskatchewan minister of post-secondary education. "This is a promise that is affordable for the government and good for students."

The right of centre Saskatchewan Party also has an education plank in its platform, offering a student loan program based on merit rather than need, and closer links with Saskatchewan business.

All this attention on education has pleased student leaders.

"We've got two parties with very strong plans for post-secondary education in their platforms," said Sean McEachern, president of the University of Regina student union. "Any plan that people have to increase accessibility to post-secondary education is a good start."

Both the University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina student unions have began a public awareness campaign to increase attention on post-secondary education. The University of Saskatchewan student union will spend $16,000 on the campaign, said U of S President Sean Junor.

Junor also said it is a good time for the province's universities to team up and look for more education funding, despite anticipated hardships for farmers this year due to poor weather conditions and low grain prices.

"We're not each looking for a bigger piece of the pie," said Junor. "We're looking for a bigger pie. I can't see why Premier Roy Romanow would call an election without an inkling of agriculture relief coming down from the federal government."

But neither McEachern nor Junor will publicly endorse one party over the other.

They both claim as long as education comes out as a significant issue in the campaign they will be satisfied.

National student leaders, however, are taking a slightly more critical approach to the campaign.

Jason Aebig of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations says the parties are misplacing priorities in offering financial bursary incentives as far as post-secondary education is concerned. He says any grant offers should be based on need rather than being distributed as a blanket offer to all students.

Student found guilty of harassment for "scathing" course evaluation

by Dan Lazin

EDMONTON (CUP) - A University of Alberta student, found guilty of harassing her teaching assistant after writing a critical course evaluation, is appealing her conviction.

Linda Smith was convicted of harassment this past April under the University's Code of Student Behaviour.

The case revolves around Smith's course evaluation of her 1998 fall term class Statistics 141, taught by professor Ata Al-Hussaini.

The evaluation, which Smith's own lawyer describes as "scathing", attacked TA Ian Colman, another TA from the Alberta Vocational College—where Smith was formerly a student—and the AVC TA's girlfriend.

A copy of the evaluation has not yet been made public.

When University officials came across the evaluation, a handwriting expert was hired by the U of A's Faculty of Science to compare the unsigned complaints to an examination written by Smith.

The expert concluded the comments were indeed Smith's and she was charged and eventually convicted.

The sentence bars Smith from attending further help sessions at the Department of Mathematics or the Engineering Students' Association, and it places her on conduct probation for the remainder of her university career.

Smith, who has a learning disability and a neck disorder, has appealed the decision, which is expected to take place in October.

Her lawyer, Franco Tarulli, is questioning the validity of charging a student for comments made in a teaching evaluation.

"The university goes out of its way to ensure that it's confidential," said Tarulli, noting the evaluations are not filled in the presence of the instructor, and that they are carried directly to the departmental offices by a student in the class.

The U of A's General Faculties Council's Policy Manual, however, does not explicitly specify any need for confidentiality.

The policy only states that evaluations be "administered in as consistent a fashion as possible."

No university officials were available for comment by press time.

Meanwhile, Tarulli said the case brought into question the university's entire teaching evaluation process.

"How can you turn around and expect students to give honest answers?" he asked.

The lawyer also raised a concern that his client was not properly informed of her violation of the Code.

The original letter to Smith from then deputy discipline officer Olive Yonge did not specify what section of the university code she was being charged with.

According to Tarulli, when Smith phoned Campus Security Services to ask what was the charge, they refused to tell her.

Smith then informed Campus Security that she would not meet with them until her charge was explained to her.

Tarulli said Smith was then told she would be apprehended outside of one of her classes.

Campus Security disputes that report.

"If you're charging someone with something, the number one thing you're going to do is tell them what they've been charged with," said Constable Dwight Bozak.

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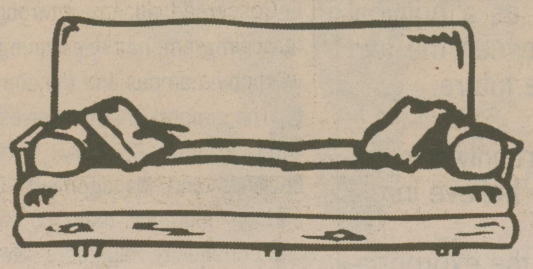

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editorial

The Nanoose Bay expropriation issue smacks of the dynamics of playground relations. Little kid (B.C. government) on playground plays on swing set. Bigger kid (U.S.) wants swing. Big brother (federal government) of little kid tries to help out. Faced with bigger kid's fist, big brother takes the swing out from under little brother and tells him to play somewhere else.

In Nanoose, the residents and businesses cannot just pick up and leave. They have lived with the reality that their landscape is used as a military testing ground for over thirty years. But is it fair to force British Columbians and Canadians to swallow potential future nuclear testing in the spirit of appeasing the United States? Where do the exploits of this hegemon stop?

The federal move to expropriate the land demonstrates our national government's allegiances. Those allegiances seem to undermine both the will of the people and the will of at least a few of our elected representatives. Even though a majority of British Columbians have expressed their opposition to the expropriation of Nanoose Bay, unilateral action has proceeded. Where does the cowardice of the federal government stop? How can we as British Columbians, as Canadians, and as a peace loving people stop the resolutions of a foreign government upon our national will?

Our country will never compete with the military expenditures of our neighbour, nor should we. Yet the liberal government is willing to spend an extra million dollars on leasing the land from B.C. Is that all that our beliefs amount to in this day and age?

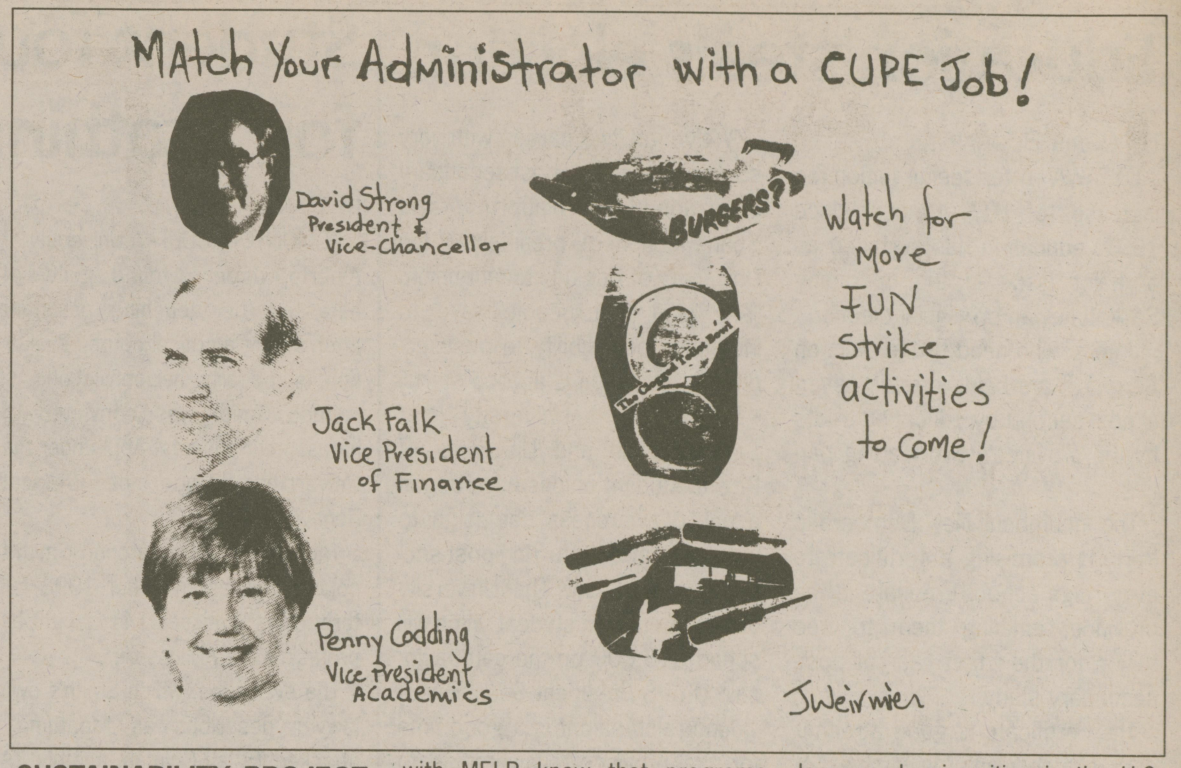
How can Canada justifiably use national revenue to protect U.S. military interests?

The feds can rationalize this behaviour as a political necessity, keeping amicable relations between the two nations, securing our own defense for the future.

But what is it that we are defending? Certainly it is not something that we as Canadians seem to believe in.

If Canadians don't step up resistance to the expropriation, then it will serve as a possible launching point for further exploitation.

Are we that subservient? The answer is yes. The question then becomes will we, can we remain as such.



SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT NEEDS HELP

Editors:

Thank you for your article on the UVic Sustainability Project (UVSP). As a community member who volunteers with this young and vibrant project, I'd like to add some comments to Sarah Glen's article ("Project not so sustainable," Sept., 2, 1999).

The UVSP has grown tremendously since Lindsay Cole co-founded the project last February, with a mission to develop a comprehensive development policy for the University of Victoria. Cole hopes the development policy will be integrated into the renewed Campus Plan, which is being updated for the first time since 1961.

The significance of this mission, to be accomplished in part through the audit program, has been recognized within the campus and the community. The support UVSP receives from Student and Ancillary Services, Facilities and Management, UVSS, and an energetic team of campus and community volunteers attests to this.

That the project received a first term grant from MELP through the Environment Youth Team again reflects the quality of organization and foresight Ms. Cole and others bring to the project. Those familiar with MELP know that programs throughout the Ministry are suffering cutbacks-the lack of second and third term funding comes with little surprise.

What is surprising is the great amount that Ms. Cole and UVSP have accomplished in the first term: in addition to securing other funding, Ms. Cole has overseen the development of thirteen audit guides; determined sampling methods for the various audits, which range from social character to purchasing; assembled a team of dedicated and talented volunteers; coordinated training opportunities; and successfully lobbied for thirteen work-study funded positions. I've not doubt that under Ms. Cole's guidance, the project will do much more than sustain itself in the coming year.

The UVSP audit program is unique in Canada, as the students will be examining a broad range of areas, including solid waste, liquid waste, water, energy, transportation, curriculum, purchasing and investment, campus ecology, planning and development, and social character.

In addition to assessing current characteristics and management practices on campus, the audit program will provide recommendations for cost-saving, environmentally-friendly alternatives. Leading colleges and universities in the U.S. report annual revenues and savings of up to $235,000 US for single-component sustainability projects. One state university reports $3 million US in annual savings for a comprehensive energy-efficiency program. The work of UVSP could, with support of UVic, soon pay for itself and save the university money, as well.

Hilary Buri

the martlet
"flying without feet for 51 years"

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POLAND:
A 20th Century History

This week sixty years ago, Canada entered a war that began in Poland.

The European country has been an ideological battlefield ever since.

BY DAVID LOW

Compared to my travels in Western Europe, Poland seemed dark and mysterious. As I rode the train in from a re-united Germany, I was nervous; I didn't know what to expect from a post-Soviet Poland. When I arrived, I discovered this uncertainty gave me a lot in common with the Polish people.

Although Poland had been so long part of Eastern Europe, it was a place that was quickly heading west. Everything was changing; the central bank had just knocked several zeroes off the currency and in the wake of economic shock therapy (to attract western investment), the voters were just about to knock Lech Walesa, the hero of the workers, out of office and replace him with a reformed Communist.

The ideological pendulum that hangs over Poland was swinging again.

Sixty years ago Poland was between invasions. On Sept. 1 Germany invaded from the west. On Sept. 17, in defiance of the Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact, Russia invaded from the east.

Soon, Germany controlled two-thirds of Poland, and Russia controlled the other third. For Poles, it was déjà vu all over again. From 1795 to 1918 Poland was gobbled up by Prussia, Austria and Russia and disappeared from the map for 123 years.

The Treaty of Versailles re-established Poland, and its citizens enjoyed a level of prosperity under a quasi-military dictatorship. But the Depression began to crush the fledgling nation.

Germany was to suffer under the Depression as well. Hitler blamed the Jews. Then he decided to start a war. Poland was right next door and, unlike Germany, had a very large Jewish population. Of the six million Poles who were to perish in the war, half of them were Jews.

Concentration camp memorial sites are the main existing evidence of the German occupation of Poland. The largest is the Auschwitz complex south-west of Krakow.

Auschwitz was originally a Polish army barracks. I was surprised by how placid it appeared. While banal on the outside, its evil was revealed within.

While I was there, I saw a 20-minute film made by the Red Army when they liberated the camp in January 1945 which documents this crime against humanity. Every exhibit at Auschwitz is a testament to Nazi depravity. The Russians preserved the place as a memorial to the triumph of Communism over Fascism, of Stalin over Hitler, of Russia over Germany. They just neglected to mention that it was a place where mainly Jews were murdered.

At the end of Communism, the aging plaques in Auschwitz were replaced with ones that revealed it was mainly Jews who were murdered there. But controversy remains. Auschwitz was also a place where 70,000 Polish Catholics perished. There is tension now between Catholics and Jews; a Carmelite convent built on the camp walls was closed in 1993 on direct orders from the Pope.

The chilling irony of Aushwitz is how the "master race" set the course of humanity back a few thousand years, maybe more. But the German objective was to wipe Poland off the map for good. Stalin said that his invasion of Poland was an act of liberation from the capitalist system by a fraternal nation.

However, Stalin deported Poles to Siberia by the boxcar load and a mass grave of Polish soldiers was discovered in the Katyn Forest in Russia, shot execution-style by the Russian secret police.

When the Red Army liberated Auschwitz, the Germans had already retreated. But for three months in 1944, while Soviet tanks sat idly across the Vistula River, the Germans blew up Warsaw block-by-block, destroying 95 per cent of the city. When the job was done, the Russians rolled in.

The Warsaw Museum, in the centre of a what appeared to be a 17th Century town, was where I saw a film about the destruction and rebuilding of the city. When I left the museum I realized that everything I saw in the old town was less than fifty years old. Beyond that, the city is mainly Stalin-era cement buildings and impossibly wide streets that my Warsaw friend said were built by the Russians so they could drive their big tanks up and down them.

Original illustration by David Low

Stalin said that fitting Communism to Poland was like putting a saddle on a cow. And the occupation of Poland was difficult; Polish farmers resisted collectivization. Workers formed unions, and strikes were held. The Communists imposed martial law, jailed Lech Walesa, and murdered a popular Catholic priest. This only planted the seed of their own destruction. After having been beaten over the head with a hammer and sickle for four-and-a-half decades, Poles began to see stars and stripes, too.

Just when the Russian tanks were heading east the Marlboro Man came in from the west. Near Warsaw central station I saw a thirty-foot high, back-lit Joe Camel billboard. "That's obscene," I said to my Polish friend.

"Really?" she replied. "What about 45 years of Communism?"

The invisible hand was pushing away the iron fist.

Last week in Gdansk the heads of state of Poland and Germany met as fellow NATO members in a ceremony of reconciliation and to remember a war that began in that city six decades ago.

Today, German investment in Poland is soaring. Poland is expected to join the European Union in 2003.

At the end of the war Poland's border was shifted over 300 kilometres to the west, but it took the country over half-a-century to become part of it. The symbol of Poland is the crowned eagle. For all Poland has endured in this century, that bird could just as easily be a phoenix.

This is a staff ad that will tell you all about how wonderful it is to submit opinion pieces to the Martlet.

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Student loan defaults: crisis or conspiracy?

BY ROLF HARRISON

A collection agent calls Mark Wesley almost every morning before he goes to class at the University of Victoria. He recognizes the rude, anonymous voice. For over a year, collection agents have tracked him and demanded payments on his $30,000 student loan.

Wesley studies sociology full-time. He has little spare cash. His biggest asset is a Norco bicycle. His mother, Gloria, pays his tuition for university.

The collection agents have used sly tactics to get money from Wesley. According to his mother, they have pretended to be police officers and postal workers. Once, the caller identified himself as a bank employee and threatened to close the mother's Visa account if she did not pay $2,000 of her son's loan.

This is the reality of default, the bank's designation for students who miss payment on their loans. Wesley's loan defaulted when he took a year off from university in 1997, tried to find a job and ended up on welfare. Because he was not in school, the Royal Bank demanded he start paying back his debt.

He is one of about 130,000 students and graduates in Canada whose loans are in default due to circumstances that many say are beyond their control.

Bank officials and politicians in Ottawa say that skyrocketing default rates are a major reason why Canada's student loan program needs reform, which would include letting banks deny loans to higher-risk students such as Wesley. It's a moneymaking proposal that has student lobby groups outraged their loan program is preying on the poor.

The Manufactured Crisis

Students are paying back their loans, student lobbyists say, though repayment may take longer than banks will allow. The average student debt is $25,000, which works out to average monthly payments of about $300.

Sometimes, a bank will put students in default after they miss only one payment. Many students ask their bank to extend the time for repayment and thus reduce their payments, but strict loan policies rarely allow such extensions.

"The banks have manufactured a crisis around default," says Elizabeth Carlyle, former chair of the nation's biggest student lobby group, the Canadian Federation of Students. "Ninety-three per cent of student loans in Canada are fully paid back." (This Statistics Canada figure is from 1995, though still one of the most powerful in the federation's arsenal of rhetoric.)

Neither banks nor the government have provided evidence that students cannot pay back their loans, Carlyle says. She claims high default rates only show that inflexible bank policies needlessly put students in default.

Paying for a post-secondary education was not always this difficult. Before 1995 the government, instead of the bank, was responsible for collecting student loans. Unfortunately, more students could—and did—cheat the system.

Their unpaid loans were guaranteed by a social trust that was costing taxpayers hundreds of millions. That changed in 1995 when some Canadian banks proposed they collect student loans for the government. The risk-sharing agreement, as it was called, has cost the government five per cent of all student loans and about $65 million this year, to cover the cost of collection and administration.

Big Brother, Big Bank

In a large, brick building on the corner of Fort and Cook, bureaucrats sort through British Columbia's student loan applications. The Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology takes up the second and third floors of the large, brick building. The first floor is a CIBC branch. A Royal Bank building stands across the street.

The Ministry is not only a neighbour of the two banks, but also their budding business partner. (The Royal Bank and CIBC handle the majority of student loans in Canada.)

Next year the federal risk-sharing agreement is up for renewal, and if renegotiated agreements at the provincial level are any indication, the federal government will agree to changes that deny funding to poorer students, like Mark Wesley. If these students try to apply for more funding, then banks can reject them for having poor credit ratings.

"The bank drives reform," says CIBC spokesperson John Nevins. "We make the government aware where programs are lacking. As administrators, we see the day-to-day realities."

These realities include rapidly growing default rates—proof of which the banks can use to bargain more government support for the bank.

"Default rates are one of the most obvious factors in renegotiating the risk-sharing agreement."

Yet banks are drawing attention to high default rates not to show that students are suffering financially. The banks are complaining about their own revenue losses.

Martlet photo by Nicole Staebell

Last year, CIBC pulled out of student loans in Nova Scotia and Manitoba because default rates were too high and government payments were too low. This year, the Bank of Nova Scotia is considering a similar move.

Nevins doesn't blame the students. He blames high tuition and unemployment, and a lack of government funding to help students reduce their debts.

Officials from Royal Bank and CIBC say that payments from the government rarely cover the cost of collecting unpaid loans.

Due in part to pressure from the banks, most governments have become advocates for such changes as credit history checks for loan applicants, and "de-designation," which would allow banks to deny loans to students based on the institution they attend.

Just this summer, the federal government began introducing credit checks

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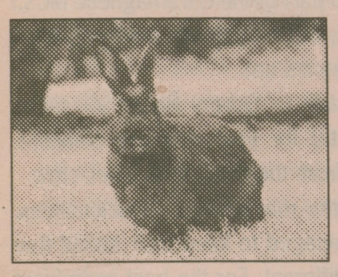
Welcome to UVic...

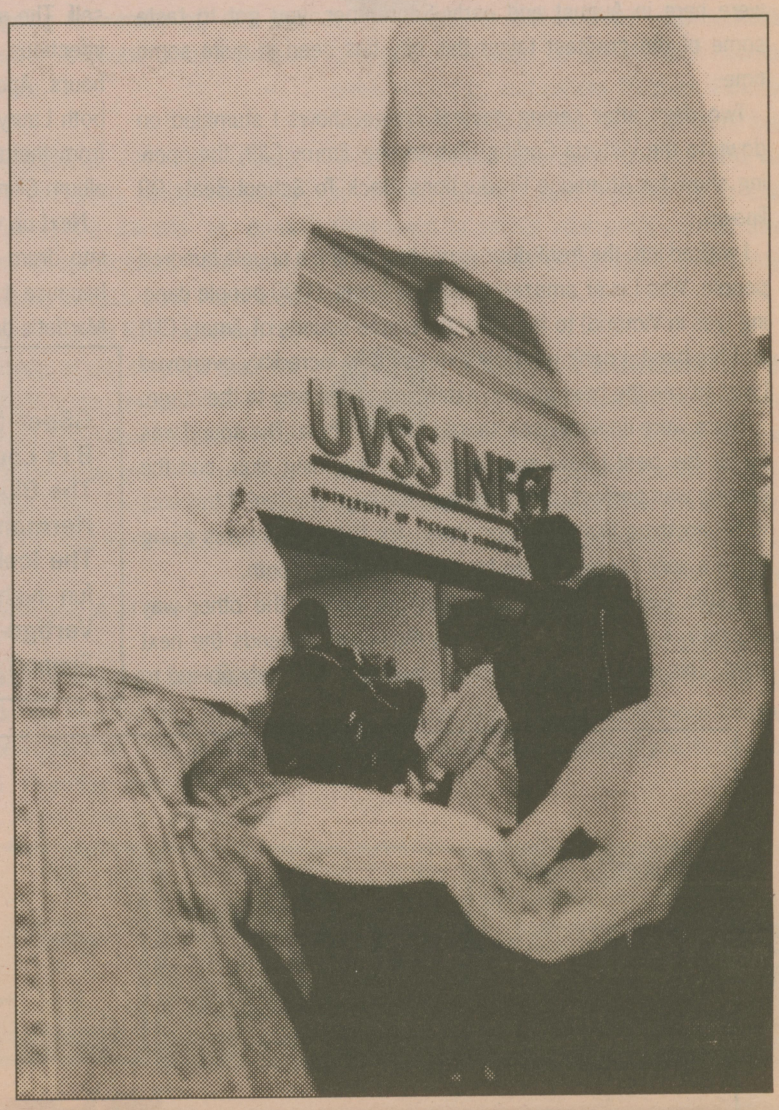


The Martlet's guide to the other side of life at Victoria's university

Once the hellish first few weeks of settling into Victoria, fighting line-ups everywhere, finding classes, and paying student fees is all over, take a deep breath and enjoy what UVic has to offer you.

The next few pages will help you get in the groove without looking like a tourist—because you're not. Sit back and take in our pearls of wisdom that will help you be more comfortable and better oriented around the university.

The main theme at UVic seems to be getting involved: most people are committed to making the absolute best out of these next four or so years, whether it be through scholastic achievement, beer drinking, or good old student activism.



There's nothing like four years in university to empty your pockets in a hurry. Our advice? Don't buy your books until you're sure you'll need them.

Intramural sports keep students fit

If you're into recreational sport, the UVic intramurals office could be your recreation headquarters. The office offers a wide variety of recreation activities throughout the fall and winter semesters—including basketball, indoor and outdoor soccer, volleyball, flag football, softball and ultimate.

The intramural program also provides various sport tournaments, including tennis, racquetball and squash ladders. Numerous drop-in recreational times at McKinnon Gym and Gordon Head are also available.

To accommodate all skill levels, intramural activities are divided into three divisions: competitive, intermediate and recreation. Leagues are also set into specific gender standards: co-ed (no more than two-thirds of one gender can participate), men or women only, and open (no gender specifications). You can choose which league best meets your needs.

Sign up individually and allow the intramural staff to place you on a "singles" team, or gather a group of friends and sign up your own team. All participants must be a registered part-time or full-time student, and alumni, university staff or rec plus members must show valid university I.D. at registration time.

Registration for the fall semester runs until mid-month. The intramural office is located in the UVic Gordon Head Complex, room 123.

Check out *The Martlet* starting this October for stats—you can follow your team's progress all year.

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Martlet Pull-Out: Pull Me Out! Martlet Pull-Out: Pull Me Out!

Back to school beats keep students hoppin'

BY SCOTT ROBERTS

For those of you who are just getting to Victoria this week, you've missed a lot of great entertainment. But fear not, there is more to come.

September is a great month for gigs in the Garden City. If you were here in August and early September, you got to taste some of the greatest talent this city has seen in quite some time.

Two days after seeing several Fringe shows I stumbled on down to the Victoria Curling Club to see Jimmy Cliff, the opening show for Atomique Productions' Back To School Beatz 99 line-up.

I walked into the front door expecting to see a couple hundred people. Was I ever amazed to see well over 1000 people dancing (yes in Victoria) to the smooth reggae sounds of Jimmy Cliff and his band. I can't possibly express how incredibly overjoyed I was to see the beer garden extending all the way to the stage.

There were no expenses spared for this show. The sound was by far the best I have ever heard at the curling club, and the lighting was perfect. Did I mention the beer garden? If this was to be anything like the other shows for this series I was going to be a very happy person for the rest of the month.

A little hungover and quite tired (or was it the other way around?), I got down to see Kofy Brown at Legends the next night. This nu-soul San Francisco quintet is definitely poised to become quite well known very soon. Their near two hour live performance was a great soul/rock/hip-hop/jazz fusion with some tight, live, drum 'n bass-style breaks thrown in for good measure.

Oh, and then there were the vocal stylings of Kofy Brown herself. The amount of energy that this woman has on stage was infectious. She had the crowd on the floor for nearly the full two hours. And her voice, her voice. She has been compared to both Lauryn Hill and Erykah Badu but her style is as different from theirs as they are from one another. Look for her third album Skinny and Tight.

Next up were DJs Double A & Twist from Montreal. If you are into drum 'n bass then I hope that you made it to this show because it was on the Sept. 8. Sorry that was a little past *the Martlet's* deadline.

Where to go:

GSpot- Queer women and friends, D.J.s and bands
BJ's Lounge- Queer friendly, drag shows
The Blues House- $2 beer Thurs., 80s Night Wed.
Hermann's- Tacky and red. Raw. Seniors making out.
The Icehouse- "Entertaining" bands, a good "clean" fun night out. Strip bar during the day
Vertigo- Good local & big-name bands, on campus. Support your student nightclub. They need it.

For stuff that you can still see, check out Andy Smith from Portishead on Monday Sept. 13th at Legends, doors open at 8:30 p.m.

For for all the heads out there, check out Degree's next show featuring Aceyalone and Abstract Rude outta LA; at Velox, Sept. 11 at 7:30 p.m. It's all ages and there will be a beer garden.

Next on the agenda are Kool Keith and DJ Spooky. Not that there needs to be an introduction. (If you don't know, Kool Keith is not only Dr. Octagon but also part of the Ultramagnetic MCs.) Sept. 20, 8:30 p.m., Legends, $20. If you say anything, don't say that's too expensive. 'Cause it's not.

For the last show of the Back to School Beatz 99 series Atomique Productions presents, for your listening pleasure, Herbaliser and Roots Manuva from the Ninja Tune label/crew.

Ninja Tune has moved into the mainstream consciousness, but thankfully they have still managed to keep their sound true to form, and Herbaliser is no different. For the best in ambient hip-hop/funk/jazz come see this show. Oct. 4, Legends, 8:30 p.m., $20.

Tickets for the Back to School Beatz 99 series are available at Boomtown, The Strathcona, Lyles Place, Pop Culture, HMV and Complex. Don't miss any of them.

Oh and sorry to the house music fans.

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A UVic Top 10

BY CRYSTAL MUTTER

1 The People- You must allow for chat time everyday. The campus is small enough to provide students with a comfortable atmosphere for conversation and friendliness. A tip for getting to know more people is leaving 20 minutes before class starts so you can stop and talk to familiar people along the way. Guaranteed you will pass a minimum of 10 people keen to shoot the breeze. Victoria is a campus city, and Ring Road seems to bring us even closer together.

2 Cinecenta- This entertainment is so close and cheap, cheap, cheap! $4.50 everyday, but make sure to bring your student card to get in at the right price. In fact, get into the habit of bringing that card everywhere with you. You'll need it lots for discounts and ID purposes. Cinecenta is one of Victoria's best kept secrets, offering a wide range of films. If you live in JC McGill you can climb right into the window practically from the theatre exit, and it's less spendy than renting a video from Blockbuster!

3 Felicita's & Vertigo- Felicitas has the best location on campus for people-watching and alcohol consumption. Be sure to check the "specials" board on a regular basis at Felicitas, and beware, though the food may often seem vegetarian, it's best to ask first—you'd be surprised where they can slip meat products into your food. Vertigo is our campus dance club. It's underrated in Victoria and good bands are often on the bill—check out the bulletin board outside their SUB door to keep in the know.

4 UVic's Echo Wall is surrounded by the Fine Arts building and the Phoenix Theatre. Find the circle in between both buildings, stand exactly in the middle with your back to Ring Road (You'll feel silly, so pick a time maybe late at night when nobody's around). Then talk to the little grey brick wall....ECHO! You might not want to tell your friends about your new echo fetish...they may take you for some kind of loony.

5 Mystic Vale-This lush forest is located behind Cluster Housing and across the road from the Engineering building. Go take advantage of the quietest place on campus! Students fought hard to preserve this oasis.

6 Jogging Trails- Wooded trails surround the university and weave between several Japanese gardens, as well as into the lovely Mystic Vale. This is not highly recommendable at night, though, so for the perfect evening run try the oval track for safety's sake. And for Pete's sake, if you're going to wander off into the woods, make sure someone knows where you're off to explore.

7 Bunnies! They are everywhere and quite tame, especially upon accepting carrots as donations! Best places to spot rabbits—the bunny house behind Cluster across from Haro road on your walk down to Caddy Bay, or behind the Margaret Newton rez, or you may find them loitering behind McPherson library. There are quite a few rumours about how the bunny phenomenon came to be...yep, yep, they multiply. But some people say they started with released lab bunnies, who found some domestic runaways.

Carry carrots with you at all times.

8 Best Places to Study- Beside the Munchie Bar, the Upper Lounge in the SUB, Felicitas (except Wednesday and Thursday nights when you drink, not study), Petch fountain, and in front of University Centre on the grassy knoll. Pick your place and make it your own. Beware of the food police in McPherson Library—students get paid to ensure you don't study with any food around.

9 Professors- Lucky for us, the professors at UVic are laid back, friendly, and approachable. One prof even does Tai Chi at Petch Fountain every morning, and others frequent Felicita's with students after class. Most of them have time for endless questions, and the best way to show your prof your potential is to chat. Best ways to corner your profs—e-mail them first, or stop by their office during their posted office hours.

10 Petch Fountain- It's the place to be. Fountain action takes place all year. The acting students use it for a stage, musical quests perform there and outdoor markets form once or twice a semester, where rare buys and cheap long distance offers can be found. Other fountain activities include hacky sacking, unwinding after a tough lab, and people watching. It's also the prime place to run into friends you haven't seen in a while, or meet those campus notables you've always wished you'd run into.

The UVic experience isn't complete without a stint at The Martlet!
Come volunteer at the university's student newspaper.
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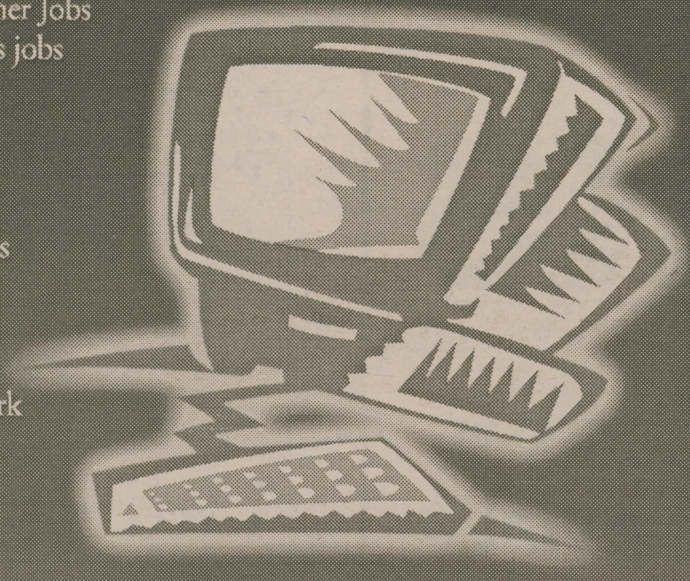

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What's queer about UVic

UVic Pride

BY REBECCA WHITLEY

UVic is a queer-friendly campus with lots going on. Rebecca Whitley tells us how it is....

Coming out during university is an experience I share with many others. We all find the small signs, the things that feed our growing identities in different places. I sought out subjects and places that contained queer life. My face flushed when caught in the Sexuality section in the library or lingering in front of the UVic Pride office. The message that other queers existed on campus is often mixed up with negative responses from faculty, staff and other students. Finding writing about someone like you on the bathroom wall is a private triumph. However, reading the occasional backlash scrawled next to it is a reminder that homophobia still exists. I felt comfortable in my *outness* when I found friends that were queer too. Having the support of my family of friends has made all the difference. There are many not so secret places that I found queer spirits on campus, these are some of them:

The Women's Studies reading room: A great place for more lesbian/bi specific resources, papers, books, journals, and magazines. There are also some limited resources about transgender. The back issues of *Girl Jock*got me through my first year! In almost every department is a queer spirit. I have found queer or queer friendly professors and staff everywhere I look. Many of my professors have supported my queer oriented projects with much enthusiasm.

We're here, we're queer and we have an office!

The UVic Pride Collective is the official voice for queers on campus. UVic Pride also has a growing library of books and articles treating queer subjects. The UVic Pride Collective is open to all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, questioning and friendly students at UVic.

The Women's Centre organizes on both feminist and anti-homophobic principles. Both are strong organizations that offer a range of events, activities and resources. The Women's Centre library is open to people of all genders and has quite a large collection of queer women's fiction and resources about sexism and homophobia.

Pick and choose your level of involvement from social to campus politics to local political activism. These are great places to make friends and connections on campus.

CFUV has regular queer programming and a queer positive initiative!

Queeries (newspaper) is published on campus a couple times a year. It's all queer all the time! The Martlet is queer friendly and publishes a queer edition every February around Valentine's Day.

The UVSS is your student government. They have progressive policies and queer positive initiatives. Openly queer candidates have run in campus elections and won! UVIc Pride and the Women's Centre each have a constituency representative on the Board.

The SUB is the place to be for all of these organizations but also regular events like the Lesbian Walk, the Women's Craft Fair, the Groovefest and others are fun and promote queer visibility on campus.

How to survive rez

BY CRYSTAL MUTTER, who who lived in residence and survived

BEWARE: Living in residence is not, technically, moving out. Even if you're in a quiet dorm, you're still living in the party zone, and to survive you're going to need to prioritize and learn some handy tricks. Here are some tips from students who've been there.

1. The right study music- Find something with fewer words but a steady beat to keep you focused and to drown out rez noises. A few hints- The Go Soundtrack, Talvin Singh, Pandit Jog or standard classical (stick to Tchaikovsky rather than Mozart). If you load these all into the CD player and hit "random" everyone will think you're cultured and smart, as well as intune with the scene.

2. Open-Door Policy- The friends you meet first year will most likey be there throughout your degree. These are the babes that stick with you! So be sure to get into the habit of daily conversation with those rez buddies. If you're of the social bent, leave your door open to send a message out to the building that you are open and friendly, and willing to help them with homework? The more people you meet in rez the better. But beware: when you don't feel safe, close your door to avoid unwanted problems.

3. Shirts/Hats- Talk to your Residence Advisor (R.A) as soon as possible about getting clothing made up for your building to promote unity...if you want to get along with your 20-odd new housemates. Rez life is fun and competitive. Is your building the best? Do you have the most spirit? Well then, do something crazy in the name of your favourite place to party—shave your building name out on your head, or maybe on the lawn.

4. Rez Intramurals- Even if you are a little rusty at certain sports, it is a great way to learn about new talent and to bond with fellow rez-mates...not to mention a great excuse to work up a sweat and go for a beer afterwards.

5. Rez Dances- Everyone acts too cool to keep going to these dances that remind them of high school—and end up there anyways. It is a good time no matter what anyone says. Always packed, with a theme, and various tunes. The atmosphere is adrenalized, light-hearted and cool. Hint: Talk to your R.A. about getting a drinking license for your rez lounge before the dance!

6. Campus Activities- Join the Martlet! Get your work published! CFUV radio also have a cool crowd working across the hall from us. For superkeeners—probably the best way to get involved with campus stuff and save money is to become an R.A. yourself next year. That way, accomodations are free, and you'll be at the head of the gossip tree because you'll know exactly what's up all the time.

7. To the Caf- That Caf! It isn't the best, even though Housing likes to think so. But on the plus side- the staff is cool and the caf is one of the best places to meet other lowly residence flunkies like yourself.

8. Leans- Pay attention if you haven't until now. We all like to think we have a decent sense of humour and fun wit, but for those of you with expensive computer equipment, take heed of leans! Don't get on anyone's bad side who likes to fill garbage cans full of water, or you may open your door to a bucketful too late. A tip: keep your computer off the floor and smile really nice to that person who spends extra time in the communal bathroom.

9. Ear-plugs- For the light sleepers, and the not-so-light sleepers who now live in the party zone. It is smart to invest in a good pair of pharmacy section, unless you like to be awake until 1 a.m. weeknights. Hang on to them after you leave rez, they may come in handy again next year in Cluster housing.

10. Change- Start now! Save up on loonies, and quarters. Give your parents a sob story about laundry being so expensive, then watch a couple rolls of cash appear on their next visit.

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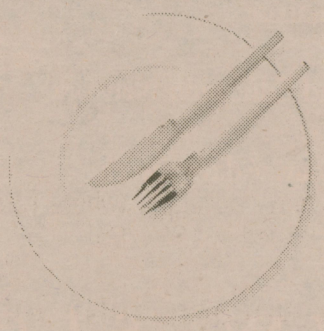

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Big banks and conservative governments say students are defaulting on their loans at a cost of $65 million a year.

This argument has meant that student loans are harder than ever to get and less students are able to afford to go to university.

But is there really a student default crisis?

for first-time loan applicants aged 22 or older. Starting last August, mature students are being denied loans if they have defaulted on three or more debts—at a minimum of $1,000 per debt—for at least 90 days within three years of their application (B.C., Alberta, and Manitoba won't implement the program until next year).

In Ontario the Mike Harris Tories publicized a default rate of 22 per cent last year and provided a breakdown of the numbers school-by-school. The government hopes to save Ontario taxpayers lost default dollars by telling the public which colleges and universities have poor records supplying graduates with jobs.

The next step would be to allow de-designation, which is on the table for next year's federal negotiations. If approved, de-designation would likely decrease enrollment at Canada's private colleges, (where rates of default average nearly 50 per cent for loans issued in 1994/95).

Browbeaten into Submission

There are only a few politicians in Ottawa who will go to bat for post-secondary students. Libby Davies, the New Democratic Party MP for East Vancouver, is one of the most vocal. Her office has been collecting student loan horror stories, as she calls them, about paperwork errors, high interest rates and ruthless default policies that have punished student borrowers.

For example, Fiona McNair borrowed $40,000 to pay for her degree at the University of Toronto. A single mother, she could not afford the monthly payments for her loan. She tried to lengthen the term for repayment, but CIBC turned her down, and her loan was soon in default. She was cut off from further funding, including government relief for the interest on her loan.

Mark Wesley is in a similar situation. He says that during his year off he requested interest relief, which is available to students after they finish school, yet the Royal Bank never sent him the application forms. "It was a paperwork error," he says, "which I'm not responsible for." Since he defaulted, his loan has accumulated over $1,600 interest, which he refuses to pay, and for which a collection agency has taken him to court.

Davies has little success, however, telling the Liberals how privatization has preyed on students. Last year she told Parliament: "Some banks are being incredibly over-zealous in pursuing students who are either late in paying or who are incapable of paying their loans. As soon as the student defaults their file is deferred to a collection agency which is charged with the task of harassing, degrading and browbeating a young person into submission."

But when you ask Davies, the long-time post-secondary education critic, about default rates, she replies they are low. She says that students aren't trying to cheat the system, rather, they want to pay back their loans. However, default rates aren't low. They are high by anybody's standards, regardless of whether one is defending or shunning students as they struggle to make payments. Nationwide, nearly 30 per cent of students defaulted on loans issued in 1994/95.

That's not to say students are cheating the system.

When students default, the bank informs the Canada Student Loans Program, which restricts the students from funding and adds them to an already huge list of borrowers in default. Bureaucrats then tabulate the rates.

But the rates don't prove much about how many loans will be paid back in the longer term. Student lobbyists say the government has inadequate numbers on student repayment and will lose money at the bargaining table next year.

While banks claim huge losses in student loans, not even the government can confirm such losses.

"I won't believe that the Royal Bank lost one hundred billion dollars last year," Elizabeth Carlyle says. "Back in 1995, we said bank involvement was a bad idea. Now we have a default crisis."

The Canadian Federation of Students is gearing up for next year, when the risk-sharing agreement is up for renewal, with a poster campaign called "Access 2000."

Should Students be Punished?

Since the risk-sharing agreement began, students in default have had a harder time finding bank employees who will listen to their concerns. A trend among banks to centralize the way student loans are managed has sent the actual people who work on student loans into closed offices.

Wesley says he tracked down, at his local branch, the bank worker who failed to send him the forms for interest relief. He claims he has proof of the bank error, though it won't help his case. That bank employee now works in another department, where she is no longer allowed to talk to clients about student loans.

A toll-free hotline has replaced her. When Wesley goes to his local branch to talk with an actual employee, a receptionist refers him to a large envelope, in which letters from clients are sealed and sent off to the Western Canada Student Loan Centre.

Royal Bank won't reply to his letters. The courts won't take pity. "No one will listen to me," he says. "I tell the bank and the government and the school that it's not my fault. It's the bank's fault. Why should I be punished?"

Retro-futurist artist's show fantastic fun

Animal Vegetable Mystical
Roy Green
Community Arts Council

BY JESSICA WEIRMIER

If I learned anything important this past Saturday evening, it was to never trust the camera Grandma got free with a magazine subscription. After a fantastic night of poetry, art and music—care of Roy Green and his musical friend Jay "Bootchie" McLaughlin—I was very disappointed to discover only one of nine photographs I took actually came out.

You'll find Green's latest art in the Community Arts Council (CAC), in Sussex Place, on the corner of Broughton and Douglas Street.This most recent collection of paintings has never been shown publicly—most were only painted this year.

His work is confident, bright and symbolic. Most of the paintings were on found objects—Green prefers rescuing old pieces of wood and breathing new life into them. For example, he painted Wizard on a cupboard door–hinges and door handle included.

His art is in a constant state of fluctuation. Although the current pieces are on display at CAC, he admits he may still make changes to them. Green considers himself a spontaneous improviser, accumulating layers of paint on the works. He believes "the process of doing it is the best part."

Green has been doing it for quite some time now. He graduated in photography at Emily Carr College of Art and Design in 1984.

Finding painting a more versatile medium for self-expression, he switched to it not long afterwards. Green describes himself as a "post-contemporary, retro-futurist, quasi-pop, neo-neo-expressionist heavily influenced by all sorts of icons, ranging from carnival freak shows to the ecstasy of St. Francis."

In addition to using many found objects for his canvasses, Green uses all sorts of materials for his art. You'll find poured resin, rose petals, photographs, magazine pictures, sardine cans, buttons and severed doll parts. These all combine to make his work extremely tactile—go ahead and touch it if you want to.

Green explains his art as a "response to visual media that is cold." His "gooey" paintings and visceral performances are anti-technological. He wants to "educate the public to what a painting is and what it means."

His Sept. 5 performance with McLaughlin kept me well entertained. He made fun of Bob Cross, honeymooners, "Thick-skinned and Stupid" landscapers and The Gap. My favourite piece was "Send Me A Postcard You Beautiful Freak"—six years of English studies had me fully appreciate his masterful handle of alliteration. It was a fun evening full of giggles.

Animal Vegetable Mystical ended Sept. 8, 1999, but watch for Green's upcoming shows.

Things to do in & around Victoria

BY JULIET RICE AND TRACY DEANS

As we set out to write an article about cool things to do in Victoria, we were struck by just how many great places there are to go, and we despaired of ever being able to cover them all in one piece.

And so the decision was made to begin by letting you in on our weekend ritual. Terry Pratchett has this to say about Tradition (you can find this quote and many other equally strange ones in his book, *The Lost Continent*).

"Tradition is an important aspect to our ritual of going for a quality breakfast and then some quality shopping."

The first thing you need to know is that this kind of a day should really begin no later than around 2 p.m. on a Saturday, since the Blue Fox Cafe is only open until 3 p.m.

We rarely start this kind of day without a trip to the Blue Fox. Located at 919 Fort St., it is the essential starting point of the ritual.

As it is the mecca for lovers of good food, you want to prepare yourself for a lineup of five to 30 minutes in length. It's well worth the wait.

The waitstaff is friendly and experienced, and the cooks....well, we've only caught the rare glimpse of them, but they work magic in the kitchen. Everything we've ever had on the menu has been wonderful. The highlights of the menu are the Eggs Benny and the (insert dramatic piece of music here) Veggie Burger. Vegetarian or no, you have to try this item—it's a taste explosion. And don't forget the salad with mango chutney dressing.

Once we've ordered, we read the Farside comics on the table. Many people claim that this is where they learned to read upside down. And to quote the cat postcard on the tabletop: "Save your fork, there's pie!"

And we highly recommend you do. One word of caution—don't eat yourself sick. It has happened to Juliet and it's very distressing. People with hangovers really should eat here—but take what you can't eat home for a snack later on in the day.

After an eminently satisfying meal, we generally head to St. Vincent de Paul at 840 View St., or as one of our friends calls it, "Stuff Paradise." And it is. It's a secondhand store filled with all the things you will never need in your life—until you see these things.

The section of the store dedicated to "wall hangings" has every kind of picture for your wall that you could want, depending on what your definition of good taste is. It is an excellent place to score velvet paintings. Sometimes you can even find a quality wig. All the stuff you could ever think of, or remember from your childhood, cheap.

On this particular occasion we found: coasters with the queen on them; a painted-gold statue of a little girl with bulging eyes which stands on a pedestal that reads "I think you're nice"; Garfield slippers for Tracy's son; other interesting knick-knacks; and a plethora of teen romances (remember the "Sweet Dreams" series, anyone?)

We recommend this store for anyone looking to discover the meaning of life—surely it must be in here, and is the reason we are drawn back nearly every weekend.

Following Stuff Paradise, our ritual varies between rolling home for a cheesy movie and/or a nap, or continuing our wanderings through downtown. This time we were on our way to Market Square when we happened upon a great new shop called Retro Wear.

It's at 610 Johnson St., and has fabulous vintage and new clothes plus other retro items, reasonably priced.

The people who run it are very friendly. We had fun there. Heavy temptations, though. Tracy has her eye on a footstool, which has a puffy top and clear plastic around the sides so that you can see the plastic flower arrangement in it. Juliet was swayed into temptation by a pastel orange houndstooth "skort" (a pair of shorts cleverly disguised to look like a mini-skirt.) We definitely recommend a visit. We've been informed that they've been holding back some great stock specifically for the first week of school. We'll be back when we have more cash.

We topped off the day with a visit to Avalon in Market Square, where you can purchase all manner of new age, occult, what-have-you type of items. Juliet got her star chart done for $5. They also have the $30 version where you get 30 pages of detailed explanation, but $5 was rich enough for us after what we'd already spent. Juliet got a really cool looking set of charts with pretty colours and interesting symbols that we'll have to decipher later.

In future issues we plan to reveal to you some other interesting and fun spots in Victoria, and we hope to see you at some of them.

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Performers from Alma D'Espana put on a show in Centennial Square.

Martlet photos by Kirstin Froneman

Summer in the square sizzles

By Kristin Froneman

Victoria can no longer be deemed a culturally-bereft city. Summer in the Square killed any notion of this city's lack of international flavour.

Held throughout the summer at City Hall's Centennial Square, the event saw mostly local dancers and musicians whose repertoire often crossed the border. Audiences traveled the musical spectrum from the lilt of an Irish flute to the raw passion of flamenco guitar.

And it was all free.

The admission-less concerts began early July with performances held every weekday at lunch hour. Shows also took place Sunday evenings with musical guests ranging from gypsy power trio Sunyata to the funked-up noise of Jazzberry Ram. These shows were broadcast live on 100.3 the Q. But most importantly, the shows appealed to all ages and musical tastes. Even the skater kids who hang out at the park were kept entertained.

Included in the mix during the day were performances by local seniors, Island jazz artists, Stages Dance for children, flamenco dance troupe Alma d'Espana and A Song For Ireland. The latter three performed on what was the last night of the festival, Sept. 5.

Deemed as an Irish pub night, the event began with four up-island musicians, some from Malaspina University-College's jazz and classical programs, who call themselves Full Kilt. Consisting of singer/ flautist Jennifer Bjarnason, drummer/bassist/singer Kristofas Bubnys, guitarist John Hansen and fiddler Louise Deschamps, the band was joined on stage by young dancers Melissa Hadfield and Megan Nutall from Commerford School of Irish dance and a narrator Joanna Bennett telling tales of Irish lore. Entitled A Song for Ireland, the show was a definite crowd pleaser. It didn't hurt that patrons could sit and enjoy a frothy brew provided by Victoria's newest micro brewery Lighthouse Brewing Co.

The night culminated in an eventful spectacle when A Song for Ireland was joined by steamy flamenco dancers Alma d'Espana. Lead by Veronica Maguire, the colourfully dressed dancers, accompanied by two guitarists, clapped their heels and hands to the pulsating beat. When Ireland joined in, the air was filled with a gypsy/Celtic/funky melee. Despite some thunderous blasts from the sound board–hey it's hard to have ten microphones working at once–the show rocked.

Hopefully, the City of Victoria will see fit to continue events such as this to show that our fair city is just not a tea and crumpets kind of town.

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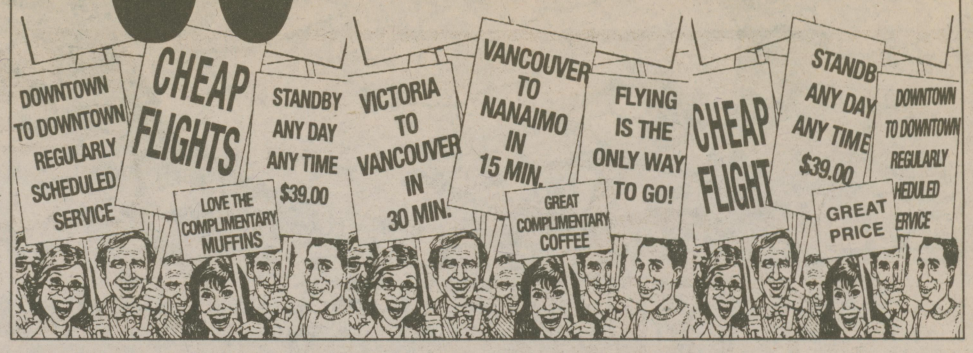
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VICTORIA SYMPHONY

Flashlight's bright

Flashlight
Running Season

BY HOLLAND GIDNEY

I think I've seen Flashlight live. I don't remember, but I have cute yellow and black stickers with flashlights on them that I couldn't have gotten anywhere else but at a Flashlight show.

When I pop the band's latest album, Running Season, in my cd player, I get a good dose of punky power-pop. The band self-proclaims itself as "ska-punk" but with this album, I'd say Flashlight no longer really fits that label.

Sure a couple of their songs have some catchy ska guitar parts, but otherwise, I'd have to align them more with the S-Cal punk scene than with any of the ska bands on their former label, Stomp.

The songs on the Flashlight's sophomore cd are catchy and the lyrics are pretty entertaining, especially in Don't Look Much Like a Girl.

Seems like Flashlight's love lives are in shambles because most of the time the boys are singing of wanting other people's girls (Sonia Bianchi), trying to improve relationships (Times), and of wanting back the girl who's left (New Old).

Buy this cd if you've got a case of September blahs or go see Flashlight when they open for the all-ages Chixdiggit show on Sept. 17 in the SUB multi-purpose room. You never know, you might get lucky and hey, if you don't, they'll probably be nice enough to give you some stickers to take home.

Bad Kitty emerges with Holly

Holly McNarland
Live Stuff
Universal Records Inc.

BY JESSICA WEIRMIER

I can't explain it, but Holly McNarland's music brings out my alter ego, Bad Kitty.

Her latest cd, Live Stuff, is one big meow after another.

My first introduction to her was at a party where I overheard a friend reciting the words of Sour Pie's Mr. Five Minutes to his girlfriend. I won't go into what that says about him, but it aroused my curiosity enough to check out her music. Not long after that, all we heard on Victoria's local rock station was her slick single Numb. A version of Numb is on her Live Stuff. It's one of the few songs that the audience participates in–a true testament to the power of corporate rock. So it's not the best song on the cd, but the others more than make up for it.

The biggest problem I have with Live Stuff is that it's only got seven songs. I Won't Stay is one of my favourites. It's the kind of song a single girl blasts on the stereo and sings to while doing those stupid Friday night dishes. So what if he's an hour late, as Holly says, "I've got my cats and my carpets and my fish and my brain."

Her track Stormy is another dishes-night song. Who can't relate to these lyrics: "If I told you the story of my life/ would you break down in laughter/ or run from me, hide from me in fright?"

Both Elmo and Stormy make me dance around the living room with my cat Mocha. I think McNarland understands the relationship between single girls and their cats. I love the intensity of Stormy's lyrics. Watch out when she sings "I yearn for more than just your mind" and "get on your fucking hands and knees for me," because Bad Kitty just might be clawing her way to the surface.

Spicy Chaps simmer with saucy new lyrics

The Buttless Chaps,
Tumblewire
1999

BY PATRICK BEATTIE

This, the second release by Victoria's country fusion crockpots, finds them simmering in the well flavoured stock of fine songwriting. In comparison to their self-titled debut this offering seems to have a few extra dashes of hot sauce in it.

In general this dish has a hopeful flavour to it, a taste of getting on to the road and booting it to Vegas, which seems to be a dominant theme in this broth. The song The Trailer Life Two Step is the sound of a skinny and excited girlfriend dancing on the roof of a car, bags packed, while her man is under the hood, trying to fix the goddam engine so they can bust out of this dead-end trailer park. The anticipation of movement is tangible in this dish, tickling the ear of my tongue as I taste it.

All soup metaphors aside, the Chaps have put out a second album of toe-tappin' versatility. I recommend this album but just as much, if not more, I recommend getting out of the house for once, and heading to Chez Chaps, where you can experience their delicious creations, prepared right in front of you.

Unfortunately, the Chaps are taking a break in the fall after their epic nine week tour across Canada, so Tumblewire will have to tide you over for a couple of months.

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Juicin' the flavour of the Guests

By Michael Lis

If you are an aspiring roadie in search of a band with a bright future, I suggest rolling with The Special Guests.

They will play this Saturday, Sept. 11, at Steamers, potentially for the last time as an independent band. Attic Records big wigs will be flying in from Toronto expecting four scribbles that will seal a deal that has been in suspense for almost a year.

It seems that paying homage to the original masters of pop/rock has paid off for this Victoria band. But this is the future, and evolution has taken its course.

While faithful to the tradition of upbeat pop, The Special Guests are well aware that they are at work at the end of the millennium. With some of their newer tunes (not yet released), one senses a gap being bridged between Tommy Roe and Thom Yorke. With fun hooks that stick, The Special Guests manage to deliver a message that is relevant to the present.

"You can learn everything you need to know from a band like The Beatles, but at the same time as a band we want to progress and move forward," said guitarist Piers Henwood. "Given the fact that we are entering a new millennium it seems especially relevant that we continue to reinvent our sound."

Signing with Attic, Canada's largest indie label, will be the band's biggest leap forward yet. They will join the likes of Creed, the Squirrel Nut Zippers and Maestro Fresh Wes among others in the Attic ranks. But the band remains collected and humble at this prospect.

"I just view signing a record deal as a means to an end rather than an end in itself" said Henwood.

"I think it's going to allow us to explore our capabilities in the studio," said lead singer Adam Kittredge. "One thing that has hampered us in the past is lack of time in the studio."

Everyone in the band agrees, time is of essence, and it takes time to produce a quality recording.

The deal with Attic will finally allow the band the resources to overcome this obstacle.

"The main thing for us is maintaining the ability to write the kind of music we like" said Kittredge. "Basically it's just about a good song."

Indeed the future does look bright for The Special Guests. The talent vested in this foursome needs only time to ripen, and when it does expect an explosion of flavour.

Watch The Special Guests juice the fruits of their labour this Saturday, Sept. 11 at Steamers and then again on Friday, Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. at UVic outside the SUB.

Lola takes off in fast new German film

By Mark Samcoe

Running, an inane carousel of limbs thrown in repetitive contortions, is a goofy way to travel.

It's hard to look hip, heaving your feet and flailing your arms to attain cardiovascular perfection or to get from here to there. What this activity needs is a dose of Lola.

The heroine of director Tom Tykwer's Run Lola Run, Lola is a scarlet-haired pixie, hammering her boots across Berlin. Watching her cannonball marathon, her synchronous upper and lower body movement, is beautiful.

The jams are kicked out immediately in this amazing German film. Lola gets a phone call from her boyfriend. He needs a substantial sum of money in 20 minutes or he dies. At the slam of the phone receiver, Lola's race is on.

The sweet quirk in this film is that there are three versions of Lola's minute march. Each rendition is distinct in its conclusion, made different from the previous story by tiny variances in time and place.

The unpretentiousness of this film, it's ability to maintain it's frenetic pace not once, but three times, enables it to bind the audience to Lola's character.

There is little time to develop minor characters, or even elaborate in depth on Lola's relationship with her boyfriend. Director Tykwer doesn't care about satisfying the norm, and he need not worry.

From the audience's perspective, it's easy to forget you're watching a film and not a music video. With a killer techno soundtrack cheering Lola on her lifesaving odyssey, this film unfolds like a fizz candy going off on your parched tongue. The flashing of minor characters futures in a series of rapid-fire stills as Lola cruises past provides comic relief to her desperate journey.

Lola is instantaneously likeable. A feisty punkette, portrayed so perfectly that we are locked onto her pulse, trailing her in our pace car and urging her to victory. The repetition in Run Lola Run never detracts from its exploration of chance, luck, love. And only short segueways offer a chance for the audience to catch their breath. And Lola is off running again, never tiring, and always looking hip.

Run Lola Run plays again at Cinecenta Oct. 15 & 16.

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Familiar faces, familiar goals in women's field hockey

BY CRAIG BATTLE

A new school year brings many things, including fresh sports teams, and shiny new schedules and programs. The early look of the UVic women's field hockey team isn't exactly "new" but it's about as shiny as any UVic has seen.

Unlike last year's roster, which included six rookies, this year's team will have only one or two newcomers, said Vikes' head coach Lynne Beecroft.

"It's probably one of the most experienced teams I've had," said Beecroft. "And if you look at the NHL, it's usually the veteran teams that come through in the Stanley Cups because they've been through the pressure and they know what to expect."

Although the team loses four players, it regains three athletes from past teams.

Shelly McLeod and Bianca Bodley have decided to take time off from the team, while Ann-Marie de Zwagger and Karalyn Joyce have been lost to graduation.

Returning to the team are Anna and Evine Grimes, two national team members who took last year off to train in Holland, and Jill Dorazio, a starter on the 1996/97 national champion team, who couldn't play last season as she was on a co-op placement in Perth, Australia.

UVic Women's Field Hockey team celebrates after a goal in '98-'99.

UVic Athletics and Recreation photo

"I welcome them back as they certainly bring extra to the team," said Beecroft.

De Zwagger, a consistent standout and the Vikes' starting goalie for the past five years, will be the team's main loss.

But Beecroft is confident that fourth-year keeper Janet Filipenco can step in.

"I think she's going to surprise a lot of people because she's actually much more agile than Anna as far as quickness goes," said Beecroft. "Where she may be lacking in size, she'll make up for it in other areas."

A welcome surprise to the team is Veronica Planella's decision to rejoin the team after announcing her retirement from the squad last year. Planella, 35, has just completed her masters degree and will be playing her fifth and final year of eligibility.

"She plays like she's about 15," said Beecroft. "Having her back is a great boost for the team because she's very dynamic and she brings a lot of enthusiasm to the team and the whole program."

The Vikes now begin the process of cutting 24 players at camp to 16, en route to the first Canada West tournament at the University of Alberta on Sept. 24-26.

And unlike last year, the Vikes will host a Canada West tourney on Oct. 22-24 on the field hockey pitch at UVic. Come out and support your Vikes!

Sports Call

BY CRAIG BATTLE

Well, well, well–isn't this a fine kick in the ass. The sun is setting on another summer as we all swing back onto Ring Road. After two to four months of sunscreen drunkenness, we once again look forward to a huge, extended hangover. This means an end to all things summer. No more beaches, no more snooze, no more backyard barbecues (okay, so I'm not Shakespeare).

The point is, when the sun rises tomorrow we'll be neck-deep in fall. We'll be looking at rain, rain and, yup, more rain. We'll all be wearing our windbreakers, gortex and a hell of a lot of fleece. And for some of us, these vital articles of clothing will be even more necessary. I say "us" meaning the fans (the athletes too, but the fans in particular because most sports teams usually wear those pesky uniforms).

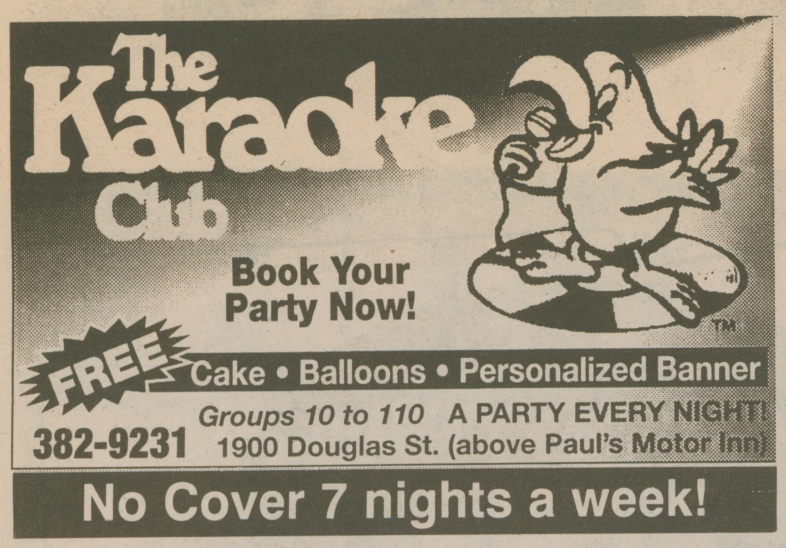
Starting in September, the wind will press us to the backs of our seats in Centennial Stadium while we, as spectators, watch men's and women's soccer games among falling temperatures. Our saviour will be that half ceiling over the bleachers, along with ample amounts of hot chocolate. The players will wade across the field, spraying mud and water with every step, before jogging to the locker room and ringing out their uniforms in the shower stalls.

The rugby men and women will be doing the same over on Wallace field, while we struggle to attach umbrellas to our lawn chairs. The players won't notice the rain while they take shoulders in their stomachs and make even deeper indents in their mouth guards. But we spectators don't have the luxury of adrenaline and personal injury to take our minds off the weather. Still, when the score is set and the athletes walk off, they'll have to dig the field from their body cavities before retreating to the Velox for alcoholic companionship and that trusted warmth in their bellies to counteract the cold.

The cross country and middle distance teams won't notice the cold either–in fact, they'll sweat through it. All of us waiting in the winner's circle will have to wrap our hoods or scarves around our faces, but the sparsely clothed runners might even enjoy a stiff autumn wind, as long as it's blowing with and not against them. With their breath lagging in the air, their only focus will be that pair of Nikes directly in front of them, or the tape at the finish line.

Unfortunately, we won't see much of the women's field hockey team (but that's why we have the Martlet). They'll be touring the prairies, enduring much worse–it's called frostbite. They'll be flailing their arms to increase the blood flow to their hands in an attempt to keep a grip on their hockey sticks. They won't have to worry about mud and grass clinging to their uniforms, but they will have to worry about skinning their knees and elbows as the field will likely be harder and rougher than concrete.

And you know what? I can hardly wait (and I'm pretty sure I'm not alone).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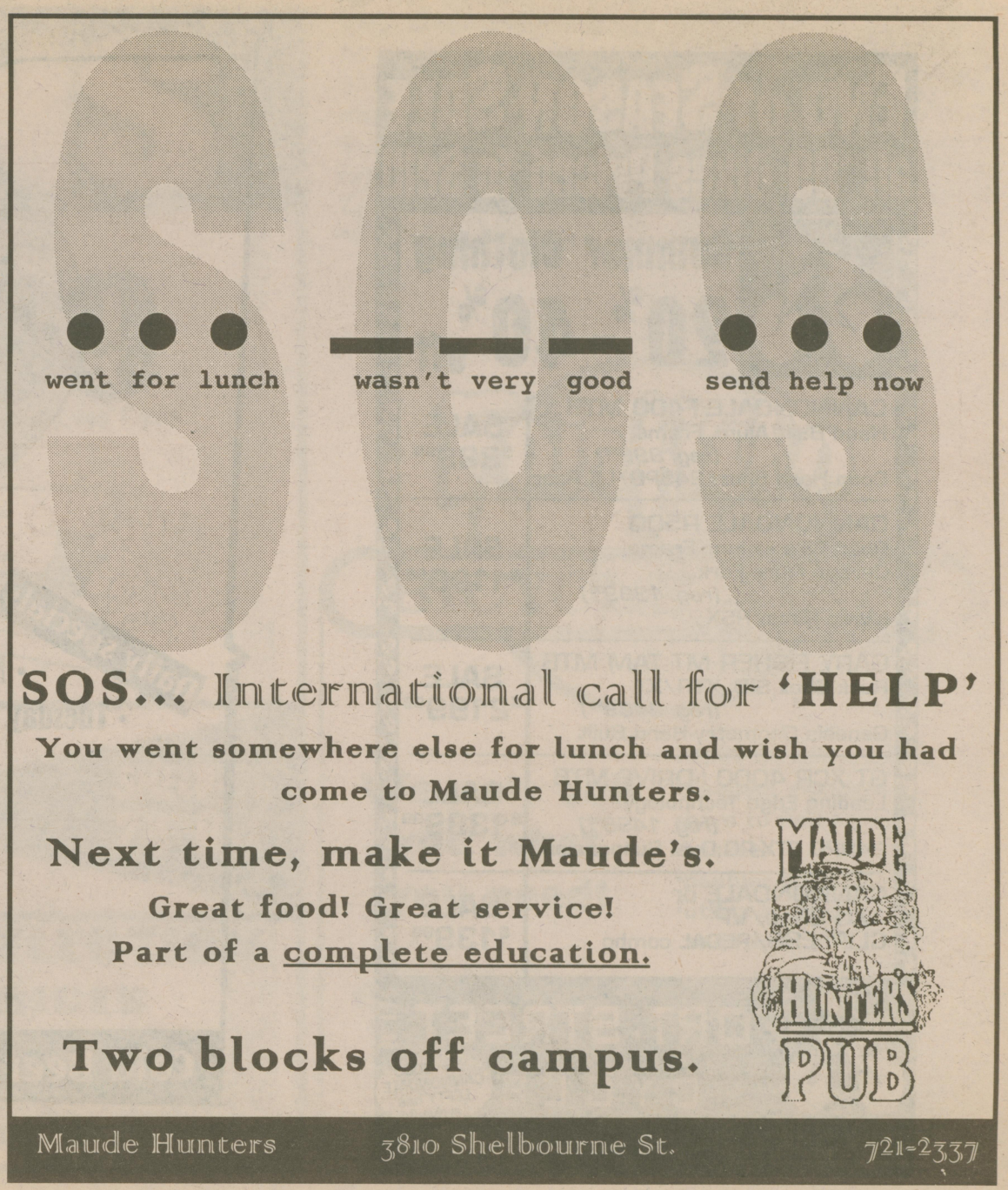
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Rugby Vikes poised to line out in 1999-2000

BY CRAIG BATTLE

Ahhh. It's a surprisingly warm September evening for the first practice of the season for the UVic men's rugby team. Although it's going to be a light, no-contact session, there's an awkward feeling in the air. And that would be due to a large amount of "rooks."

It's easy to tell these newcomers from veterans as head coach Doug Tate begins the practice. The rookies are serious and quiet, even during the ball-handling and passing drills that require a lot of talk. But if these guys are rugby players, this silence won't last long.

And still, it's easy to tell through the veterans that the tales of loud, boisterous rugby players aren't lost on this team. I haven't heard any rugby songs ("rugby songs" meaning top-of-the-lung, deep-toned, often-rude chants), but the tardy veterans are greeted with a barrage of nicknames and cat-calling. Heavy-handed shoulder slaps, the occasional head butt, and the ever-present knee socks and striped jerseys are also present. These guys are definite rugby players–the rookies will blend in and the songs will come later on.

Coach Tate doesn't seem worried about the team gelling–or much of anything else for that matter. Tate seems confident in the early indications of his team despite losing seven senior players from last year's University and Vancouver Island First Division champions.

"We've got a nucleus for a very good team, as long as we stay healthy," said Tate. "We've got a lot of young guys who've played Canada Under 20–who've had a sort of development year here–who are ready to step up to the plate."

Tate loses four main players from last year's Vikes' squad including centre and team captain Eliot Anderson, scrum half Chris Lonsdale, prop Chris Dykstra, and outside half Marcus Blumensaat. Dykstra and Blumensaat will join the Pacific Pride, the Under-23 Canadian team, while Anderson and Lonsdale move on to play for local rugby clubs in the premier division on the Island.

Tate says that over 15 players have gone to the Pride since he's been coaching the team.

"I think a lot of guys are coming here on the premise that they'll do a type of apprenticeship and go on to play there [Pacific Pride], which is great for the program."

Four main newcomers hope to someday fill the shoes left by this year's losses, although Tate said that most rookies will play for UVic's Under-21 development squad, instead of the varsity level Vikes. Among the four are Queen's transfers Scott McCauley and Tyler Wish, both members of the Canadian junior team, and Joe Noble and Travis Cramb. Noble, a centre, and Cramb were members of the B.C. high school champion Lord Byng Grey Ghosts.

Tate will need new blood, and quick, as he already has plans for the varsity squad. He wants to repeat as University and First Division champions, as well as improving team consistency in the second-half of the season.

"We had a lot of injuries last year and in the second half of the season we had some–I would say–mental breakdowns and eradic performances against some of the university teams in the U.S." said Tate. "I would like to see us when we're travelling to have a better level of concentration."

Several American university clubs are already on the Vikes schedule this year, including Brigham Young, Stanford and rival Berkeley.

The Vikes first home games will be against the Norsemen on Saturday, Sept. 11 and UBC on Oct. 2 at Wallace field.

UVic collides with Berkeley in a grudge match of the top two rugby sides in North America.

Martlet photo by Rachel Kiers

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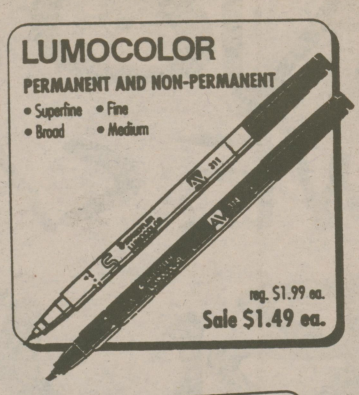

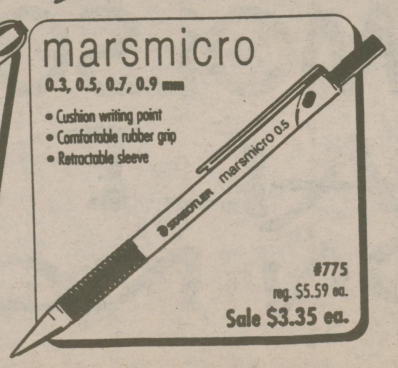

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on-campus

Fiesta Siesta is back on campus this **September 9, 10 & 11**. Check out the variety of vendors & crafters. Petch Fountain, from 9 to 4 p.m.

The UVic Medieval Club SAGM will be held **September 20th** in the Clubsroom in the SUB, B023 @ 7 p.m.

The Maltwood Art Museum & Gallery, in conjunction with UVic Archives and Special Collections, is proud to present, **"A History of the Gordon Head Campus Land"**: a chronological study of the various occupants and uses of the land before it became a modern university campus in 1963. This exhibit is located in the McPherson Library Gallery, from **September 29 to October 29**.

off-campus

Bridge–the world's greatest card game. Free introductory class, Saturday, **Sept. 11,** 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Near UVic. Pre-register with Margaret at 477-7283.

SPORTS RENT's Annual Equipment Sale. Bikes, camp, surf, rollerblades, skis, snowboards & more! Saturday, **September 11,** 8:30 a.m.

The Fernwood Community will be holding its annual celebration, **FERN FEST**, on **Sept. 25.** The festival will be held at the Fernwood Community Square from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. There will be music & entertainment by local performers, kids' games & activities, community market, and plenty of food and drink. Call 381-1552 for more details.

Interested in playing **field hockey**? Come out and join the **Rebels Sports Club**. We have both mens' and womens' teams for various levels. Mens' teams contact Lorne @ 383-1978, Womens' teams contact Shannon @ 478-4914.

Victoria Gay Pride Society wants to hear from you! We're having our annual general meeting at the G-Spot, 1910 Store Street, on **Sunday October 3**, 1999 from 4 to 5 p.m. It will be your first opportunity to make suggestions as to what can be done for Pride 2000!

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volunteers

The **Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre** is currently accepting applications for the next crisis line volunteer training in October. Women interested in making a commitment to helping individuals affected by sexual assault and sexual abuse call 383-5545 to obtain an application. Application deadline **September 13th**.

Make a difference in a child's life by becoming a mentor to an elementary school student. Visit your student one hour per week at school & play games, sports, do arts & crafts, bake or pursue other activities. For more info, call Bonnie at Big Brothers & Big Sisters at 475-1117, Ext. 303.

Volunteers wanted (female & male) to work with groups of pre-teens in a fun-focused program for prevention of drug abuse. One to two hours a week, with training provided. Call Sylvia at the Blanshard Community Centre, 388-7696.

The breakup of a relationship can be difficult for anyone. Feelings of anxiety, depression, loneliness, anger, guilt, confusion, self-doubt and fear are commonly experienced and can be quite painful.

I am a graduate student in Counselling at the University of Victoria and am launching a study on the effectiveness of a short-term journal writing program for university and college students who are recovering from the breakup of their relationship. If you are interested in participating in this free program and would like further details, please contact me, Jessica Altrows, at 370-0345, or e-mail me at jaltrows@uvic.ca. All calls and e-mails will be kept confidential.

volunteers

Diotima Philosophy Discussion Group alternate Mondays 7 to 9 p.m. Room 932 Balmoral, starting September 20th. Maximum 20 per group. $3 per session. Facilitator David Mercer Ph. D. Pre-registration advisable. Call 595-5097 for register or for more details.

help wanted

Childcare needed for 19 mo. old. Tuesday & Thursday afternoons. Approx. 8 hours weekly. $10 per hour. Prefer ECE student or grad. First Aid certificate required. Only stable, caring person need apply. Call Annette or Todd for more information @ 595-7407.

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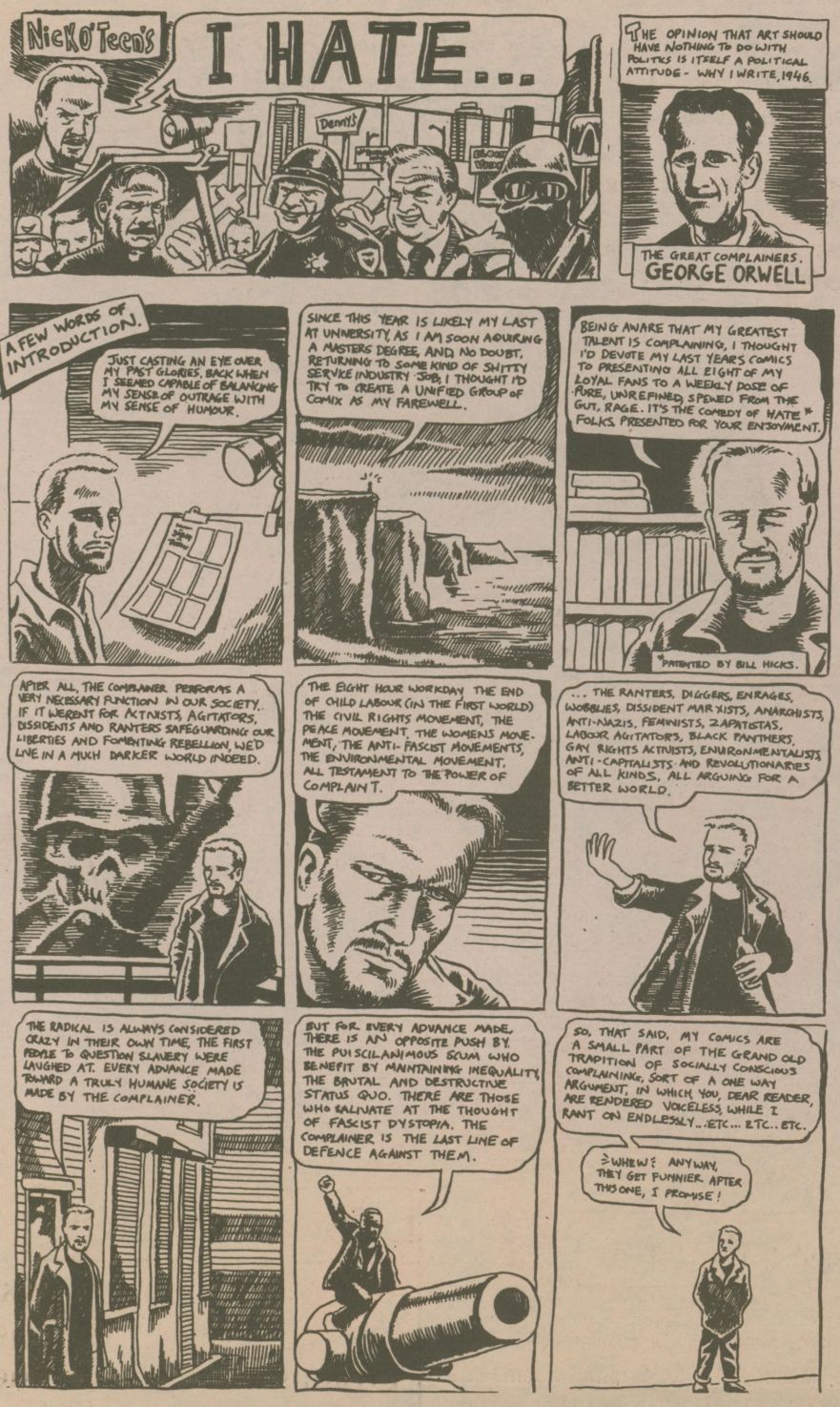
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THE OPINION THAT ART SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH POLITICS IS ITSELF A POLITICAL ATTITUDE - WHY I WRITE, 1946.
THE GREAT COMPLAINERS.
GEORGE ORWELL
A FEW WORDS OF INTRODUCTION.
JUST CASTING AN EYE OVER MY PAST GLORIES, BACK WHEN I SEEMED CAPABLE OF BALANCING MY SENSE OF OUTRAGE WITH MY SENSE OF HUMOUR.
SINCE THIS YEAR IS LIKELY MY LAST AT UNIVERSITY, AS I AM SOON AQUIRING A MASTERS DEGREE, AND, NO DOUBT, RETURNING TO SOME KIND OF SHITTY SERVICE INDUSTRY JOB, I THOUGHT I'D TRY TO CREATE A UNIFIED GROUP OF COMIX AS MY FAREWELL.
BEING AWARE THAT MY GREATEST TALENT IS COMPLAINING, I THOUGHT I'D DEVOTE MY LAST YEARS COMICS TO PRESENTING ALL EIGHT OF MY LOYAL FANS TO A WEEKLY DOSE OF PURE, UNREFINED, SPEWED FROM THE GUT, RAGE. IT'S THE COMEDY OF HATE * FOLKS. PRESENTED FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT.
*PATENTED BY BILL HICKS.
AFTER ALL, THE COMPLAINER PERFORMS A VERY NECESSARY FUNCTION IN OUR SOCIETY. IF IT WERENT FOR ACTIVISTS, AGITATORS, DISSIDENTS AND RANTERS SAFEGUARDING OUR LIBERTIES AND FOMENTING REBELLION, WE'D LIVE IN A MUCH DARKER WORLD INDEED.
THE EIGHT HOUR WORKDAY THE END OF CHILD LABOUR (IN THE FIRST WORLD) THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, THE PEACE MOVEMENT, THE WOMENS MOVEMENT, THE ANTI-FASCIST MOVEMENTS, THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT, ALL TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF COMPLAINT.
... THE RANTERS, DIGGERS, ENRAGES, WOBBLIES, DISSIDENT MARXISTS, ANARCHISTS, ANTI-NAZIS, FEMINISTS, ZAPATISTAS, LABOUR AGITATORS, BLACK PANTHERS, GAY RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, ENVIRONMENTALISTS, ANTI-CAPITALISTS AND REVOLUTIONARIES OF ALL KINDS, ALL ARGUING FOR A BETTER WORLD.
THE RADICAL IS ALWAYS CONSIDERED CRAZY IN THEIR OWN TIME, THE FIRST PEOPLE TO QUESTION SLAVERY WERE LAUGHED AT. EVERY ADVANCE MADE TOWARD A TRULY HUMANE SOCIETY IS MADE BY THE COMPLAINER.
BUT FOR EVERY ADVANCE MADE, THERE IS AN OPPOSITE PUSH BY THE PUSILLANIMOUS SCUM WHO BENEFIT BY MAINTAINING INEQUALITY, THE BRUTAL AND DESTRUCTIVE STATUS QUO. THERE ARE THOSE WHO SALIVATE AT THE THOUGHT OF FASCIST DYSTOPIA. THE COMPLAINER IS THE LAST LINE OF DEFENCE AGAINST THEM.
SO, THAT SAID, MY COMICS ARE A SMALL PART OF THE GRAND OLD TRADITION OF SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS COMPLAINING, SORT OF A ONE WAY ARGUMENT, IN WHICH YOU, DEAR READER, ARE RENDERED VOICELESS, WHILE I RANT ON ENDLESSLY... ETC... ETC... ETC.
WHEW! ANYWAY, THEY GET FUNNIER AFTER THIS ONE, I PROMISE!

moonbeams

MAN, IT'S NICE TO QUIT OUR CRAPPY SUMMER JOBS AND START LEARNING AGAIN, EH 'BEANER?
HMN?.. YEAH, 'S GREAT, YEAH! NICE TO WORK ON NEW DRUG CONNECTIONS...
I WISH I HADN'T BEEN PASSED OVER ON THAT RABBIT SHOOTING JOB AT THE HOSPITAL, THOUGH. THAT WOULDA BEEN FUN.
IGNORANT MEAT-EATER!
THEY DIDN'T SHOOT 'EM ANYWAYS.
WHAT DID THEY DO WITH THEM, THEN?
CAUGHT AND TRANSFERRED 'EM.
WHERE'D THEY TAKE 'EM TO? WHO'D TAKE HUNDREDS OF INBRED, DISEASE CARRYING RODENTS?
:UHHH!
HEY, WHERE ARE YA, MOONBEAN? HAVE YOU GUYS SEEN HIM? HEY, WHY YA ALL MOVING BACK? DID I SAY SOMETHING? WHATCHA LOOKIN' AT?

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